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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015

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Hope for Neil

Supporters write messages of hope for former Calgary teacher Neil Bantleman at a rally Wednesday. Bantleman remains in an Indonesian prison on a conviction his friends and family call an "injustice." Story in metroNEWS. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Deerfoot as busy as ever

ROADS

Traffic drop seen in 2014 all but erased so far in 2015

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Traffic on Deerfoot Trail was down consistently for about a year after Calgary's southeast ring road opened in late 2013, but those reductions have since evaporated as more and more cars make their way onto both roadways.

So far in 2015, average daily traffic volumes on Deerfoot are up just over five per cent compared to last year, virtually erasing the five-per-cent reduction in traffic observed in 2014 compared to 2013.

The southeast portion of Stoney Trail opened Nov. 22, 2013.

Now, the latest counts from Alberta Transportation show virtually identical levels of traffic on Deerfoot — as measured both at Southland Drive and 17 Avenue South — from January to May of this year, compared to the same period in 2013.

At the same time, traffic volumes on southeast Stoney have continued to grow.

Average daily volumes in May stood at 35,904 vehicles, as measured near the 52 Street intersection, which is up 16 per cent from a year earlier.

At the Glenmore Trail intersection, meanwhile, an average of 45,481 vehicles were counted, up 14 per cent from May 2014.

What's driving the increase in traffic on Deerfoot and Stoney? Story on page 9.

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Riots erupt on deadline day for Greece. World

Rules around social media at work leave 'grey areas'

POLICIES

Unacceptable list includes sexually explicit activity

Lucy Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

> **Social media policies are usually around more what you do at the office on social media, not so much about what you post on your own time.**
> Wendy Giuffre

Dealing with social media in the workplace remains a tricky business, according to a Calgary human resources specialist.

Wendy Giuffre, president and principal consultant at Wendy Ellen Inc., said because of a lack of legislation, there are no across-the-board social media policies, creating a "grey area" within many corporations.

Metro looked into several corporate social media policies, beginning with the City of Calgary's.

The city's document, published online, is quick to remind employees "social media conversations are between one person and many people at any one time," immediately squashing the idea that anything posted to social media is ever private.

"Anything you post on social media is public and anybody can view it," said Giuffre. "Employers, depending on the person and their roll, can see that person representing their company — whether on company time or off."

Both Suncor and Cenovus told Metro they had internal social media policies but wouldn't release them publicly.

Metro was able to locate online resources for both companies, however, that include some rules and guidelines regarding company social media accounts.

Suncor's "Policy Guidance and Standards" said those who run the company's social media platforms must ensure what is posted is "up-to-date, not misleading, and includes appropriate cautionary language where warranted."

Neither the city's nor Suncor's online policies say anything about employees posting on their own social media accounts.

Cenovus's "Code of Business Ethics Conduct & Ethics" does touch on individuals using personal accounts at work through an "acceptable use" and "unacceptable use" list.

The "acceptable" list states Cenovus employees can use personal social media for short periods of time if it "involves appropriate content" and "is in alignment with regional laws, legislation, and Cenovus values."

The "unacceptable" list includes "illegal or unethical activity" and "obscene or sexually explicit" content or anything that could damage the company's reputation.

Although Cenovus's policy does speak to personal social media use, it is only during business hours, which is what Giuffre said creates a grey area.

"It is really going to be interesting to see how this evolves for companies."

What's important for Calgarians to understand, said Giuffre, is employers have the right to fire an employee whenever they want.

"You can terminate employment at any time as long as you pay the person the proper notice," she said.

Giuffre said the best practice for both employees and employers is to sign a contract.

"Those kinds of policies should be signed off annually by employees," she said.

Corporate social media policies aren't always clear. HELEN PIKE/METRO

GROW CALGARY

City drops charges

Tensions between Grow Calgary and the city have subsided slightly after the two parties came to an agreement and charges against the urban farm were dropped.

Earlier this year the urban farm was under the microscope for structures built without permits and are now scheduled to appear in front of the Alberta Safety Codes Council to convince the province to keep the DIY structures standing.

Charges for land use bylaws and permits brought forward by the City of Calgary in June have also been dropped because, as city prosecutor Ola Malik said, an agreement between city and farm has been crafted and a trial would not be in the public's interest.

"We have an assurance that those structures have been fenced, and we have an assurance that these structures will remain fenced," Malik said. "That deals with our immediate safety concerns."

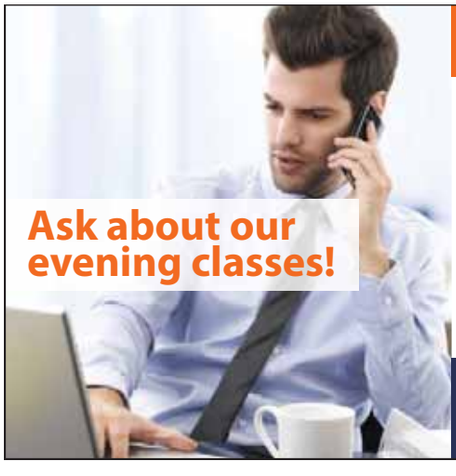
Malik added the city is continually conducting visits with Grow Calgary to ensure they are upholding their end of the agreement.

Paul Hughes of Grow Calgary said he's happy the city and urban farm are on the same page.

"We're out of any craziness with the city. It's been busy, but it's been really quiet."

He said the group is still trying to find a structural engineer to take a look at their buildings and set a precedent for new and innovative designs.

HELEN PIKE/METRO



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CRIME

Police looking to return stolen items

Calgary police are seeking the owner of some objects located inside a stolen Green Drop Lawn Maintenance vehicle they believe was used in crime.

On June 22, a stolen Green Drop vehicle was recovered in the 1200 block of 36 Street NE.

Earlier in the same day, the vehicle was involved in a home-invasion robbery in the 1000 block of Shawnee Road SW, according to police.

A number of stolen items were found in the vehicle including a full jewelry box. It's believed they were stolen from June 19 to June 22.

Anyone with information is urged to call Det. A. Stokes at 403-567-6112 or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

METRO

Jewelry recovered from Green Drop vehicle.
COURTESY CALGARY POLICE

FATALITY

Woman dies while whitewater rafting

One woman is dead after a whitewater rafting incident on Kananaskis River Tuesday.

Canmore RCMP responded to a call around 4 p.m. of an unresponsive woman who had fallen into the Kananaskis River during a whitewater rafting excursion.

The victim is a 51-year-old woman from Singapore. She fell off the raft and was subsequently submerged underwater for a short period of time.

RCMP said in a release that she was pulled out of the water and back onto the raft and shortly afterward went into medical distress.

According to the release, other individuals on board the raft began CPR immediately. Upon their arrival, Emergency Medical Services took over and transported the victim to a hospital in Calgary where she was pronounced dead.

The investigation is ongoing.

METRO

MORE LOCAL NEWS ONLINE

Some customers have complained of being refused service by cabbies during the Stampede. METRO FILE

Cab complaints leave councillors concerned

STAMPEDE

Some trips said to be refused because of distance

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Some in the taxi industry are calling this year's Calgary Stampede a success from a customer service perspective, but city councillors raised concerns Wednesday over an array of complaints they fielded during the 10-day-long party.

"The one concern that was raised many, many times was the driver-flagged trips were better," Coun. Evan Woolley said during a committee meeting. "But the drivers would not let people into taxi cabs until they said where they were going."

Woolley said a number of trips were refused, especially in the Beltline area, based on the distance customers wanted to ride. But there were only about a half-dozen official complaints about crabby cabbies getting choosy over customers based on how near or far they were planning on travelling, said Mario Henriques, chief livery inspector with the City of Calgary.

"That is absolutely prohibited as far as the drivers' behaviour is concerned," Henriques said. "Our recommendation is always to get the taxi number, the time the offence took place and report it to us."

Woolley said people who complained to him noted if they were only going 10 to 15 blocks, cab drivers were saying: "Sorry, no deal."

Coun. Druh Farrell said it took one of her own staff members a full hour of waiting before being picked up by a taxi, while there were dozens of cabs lining the streets waiting to be dispatched.

There are instances in which a cab driver can legally refuse a customer under city bylaws, but those are specific to when the driver feels unsafe, not when it comes to how much a fare will earn.

DID YOU KNOW?

— A taxi driver may ask customers for a $30 deposit toward their fare.
— If you puke in, pee in or otherwise soil the cab, you could be on the hook for a $100 cleaning fee.
— Drivers can refuse or terminate trips if passengers are being abusive, disorderly or highly intoxicated.
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An aerial view of the land the city eventually plans to see developed into a "complete community" known as Providence. COURTESY CITY OF CALGARY

Providence to be own 'mini city'

COMMUNITY

Southwest ring road will open up access for thousands

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary city councillors often talk about building "complete communities," and city planners say they can now create one so complete it could be considered a "mini city."

With new certainty surrounding the completion of the southwest ring road, the city has dusted off an area structure plan (ASP) first conceived in 2007 for a community at the far southwestern periphery to be named Providence.

"We had gotten about halfway through the area structure plan, but there were just too many uncertainties about the ring road … and the development of this area will really require the ring road to get people in and out," said Jill Sonego, a city planner and team lead for the Providence ASP.

The area in question is largely undeveloped farm land just south of the Tsuu T'ina Nation and just west of the communities of Evergreen and Bridlewood.

The new ring road would run just to the east of Providence, with the main access route into the community being 162nd Avenue S.E., which Sonego said would include a transitway (dedicated bus lanes) that would connect eastward to the Somerset-Bridlewood LRT station.

The goal is to eventually develop that route into a retail-heavy part of the community.

"Think of a Robson Street in Vancouver or Yonge Street in Toronto — that sort of thing, but along a suburban street in Calgary," she said.

Providence is expected to eventually provide homes for 32,000 people and jobs for 11,000 workers, more than twice the typical job-to-resident ratio of typical new communities in Calgary.

The job types would be varied, Sonego said, and would include office, retail, institutional and industrial settings.

"It's offering pretty much every land use you would see in the larger city, but all in one location," she said. "Except for heavy industrial businesses, every type of business could locate in Providence, and the people who live in Providence would be able to work in those businesses, so it's kind of a microcosm of the city."

Earlier this month, Alberta's new NDP government pledged to complete the southwest portion of Calgary's ring road by 2022 at the latest.

Infrastructure Minister Brian Mason said he actually expects the route to be open by 2021, leaving one year to spare on the seven-year deadline imposed by the province's land-transfer agreement with Tsuu T'ina.

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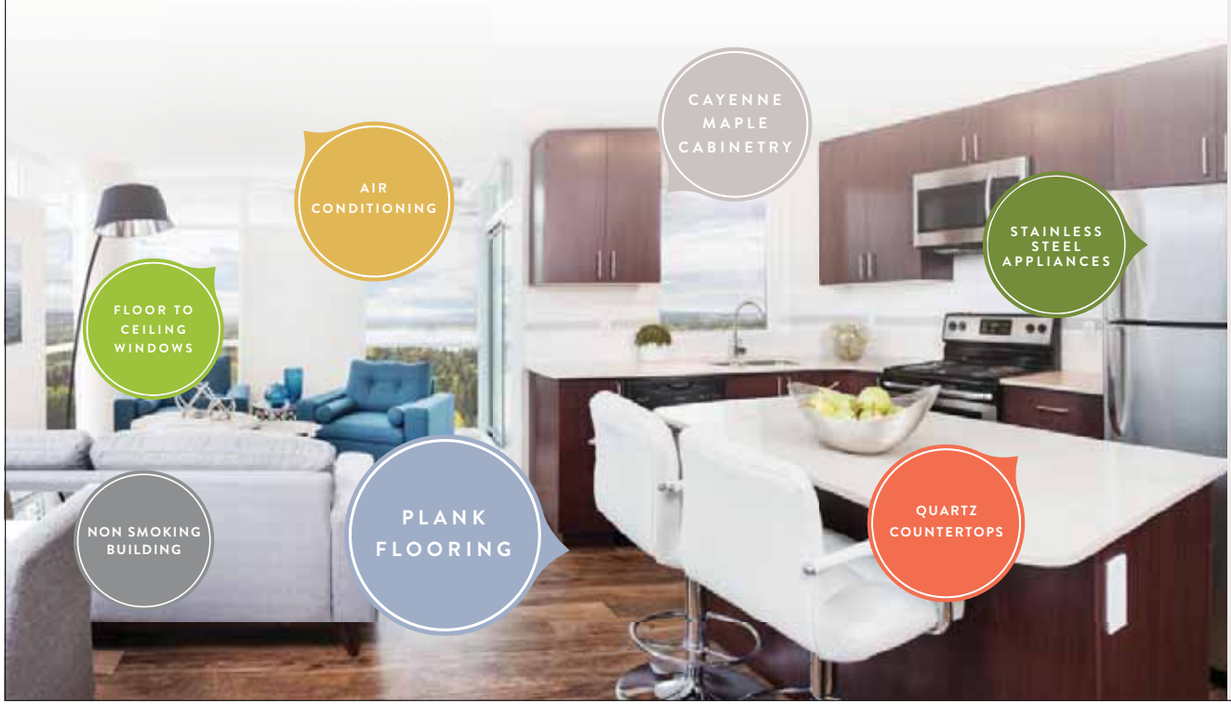

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Brett Wilson addresses the crowd in support of Neil Bantleman.
JENNIFER FRISEN/FOR METRO

Rally for Bantleman

INDONESIA

Supporters of imprisoned teacher insist he is innocent

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Supporters of incarcerated Canadian teacher Neil Bantleman are calling his conviction in Indonesia an "injustice."

More than 100 people gathered Wednesday outside of city hall in support of Bantleman, who they said has been wrongfully convicted and detained for the sexual abuse of children at the Jakarta International School, where he was a teacher.

Bantleman was found guilty in April by the South Jakarta District Court and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Tuesday marked one year since Bantleman has been in Indonesian prison. He has steadfastly maintained his innocence.

Todd Muir, Bantleman's brother in-law said over the course of the year "it became apparent this was a witch hunt," and "a case of extortion." Brett Wilson, the well known Calgary businessman and philanthropist, said his son was taught by Bantleman at Webber Academy in Calgary.

Wilson teared up as he told the crowd he trusted Bantleman "completely," and spoke of "injustice and corruption" that had put him behind bars.

Nancy Purdy, the rally organizer and a former colleague of Bantleman's, called the situation "a teacher's worst nightmare." She said his supporters will continue to work together to bring him hope.

"He is silenced in jail. He can't say anything, so he is relying on us," she said.

Bantleman's supporters hope their continued efforts will spur the Canadian government into action and eventually lead to Bantleman's release and his conviction overturned.

> **He is silenced in jail. So he is relying on us.**
> Rally organizer Nancy Purdy

IN BRIEF

Third man charged in murder of store owner

Calgary police have officially charged a third man in connection with the murder of Maqsood Ahmed.

Matthew Daniel Forest, 21, of Calgary, is charged with robbery, accessory after the fact to robbery, and accessory after the fact to murder, police said in a release late Wednesday. Jean Bertrand Havyarimana, 19, surrendered to police Monday, weeks after a warrant for his arrest was issued.

He was formally charged Monday with robbery and second-degree murder. In June, police arrested Lloyd Kollie, 19, in connection to the October 2014 incident and charged him with robbery and second-degree murder.

METRO

FIRE BRIGADE

Chief targets female staff to diversify

After being questioned on it by council, Calgary fire Chief Steve Dongworth told councillors one of his priorities is the diversification of his brigade with more women and minorities.

In a Community Services and Protective Services committee meeting Wednesday, a review of the Calgary Fire Department's annual report spurred questions of diversity from Coun. Druh Farrell, who noted the force may be the least diverse Canada-wide.

"I might be wrong that Calgary has the smallest percentage of women in their fire department than any other City in Canada," Coun. Druh Farrell said. "I'm just wondering if we're doing anything to change that?"

Dongworth said he wasn't aware of such a statistic and doesn't think it's the case.

"We have an extremely low number of female firefighters and in fact I would say diverse firefighters in our agency, when you compare to police and others. It's something we've targeted."

He added they have worked hard to give women and diverse recruits opportunities to learn about the process. "We're addressing cultural issues within our organization currently," Dongworth said. "We've already started some of those initiatives; we're running sessions now exclusively for female applicants."

Dongworth said they're copying the police, who offer gender specific physical tests, to help cut down on the intimidation factor. He also noted they're going to events to reach out to diverse communities.

"It's an absolute priority for me," Dongworth said.

Coun. Sean Chu noted that he hopes this diversification won't mean lowering standards, thereby diminishing the overall quality of new recruits.

HELEN PIKE/METRO

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Students' passion for cooking sizzles at SAIT

CAREERS

Culinary school offers youth a chance to mix it up

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Some Calgary at-risk youth took to chopping, boiling and frying at the SAIT Culinary Campus Wednesday, sharpening their skills and speaking with top-notch local chefs.

Fifteen students have been taking the introduction to cooking apprenticeship at the campus since May, learning cooking techniques, knife skills, food safety and first aid from SAIT chef instructors.

SAIT teamed up with the United Way of Calgary and Area's All in for Youth program to encourage vulnerable youth to finish high school and activate their passion for food.

Students will have the opportunity to apprentice at a Calgary restaurant after the program ends on Aug. 14.

Getting accepted into the program has been a dream come true for summer student Lohgan Kyle.

"I never imagined I'd be working in something that I actually dreamed about," he said. "You can achieve anything you want, if you don't give up."

The Delta Bow Valley's executive sous chef Chris Mercier said coming to the culinary campus on Wednesday was the perfect opportunity to guide the student prospects.

"It's a great opportunity to bring them under our wing and get them to the next level to follow through in this career," he said.

SAIT Chef Instructor Maxwell Lawrence said it has been an intimidating day for the students, but thought it was important for students to engage with industry leaders early on.

Tasha Steffensen chops peppers at the SAIT Culinary Campus Wednesday. JEREMY SIMES/FOR METRO

SMALL BUSINESS

Lobby petitions against higher wage

A lobby group for small businesses has launched an online petition to try to stop the Alberta government's plan to substantially increase the minimum wage.

The New Democrats say they will raise the wage by a dollar this fall and continue with increases until it reaches $15 an hour by 2018.

The minimum wage is currently $10.20 an hour.

Amber Ruddy with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business says the group has heard a lot of concerns since the first increase was announced.

The federation is offering to set up roundtables so the government can hear directly from small businesses.

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Amount by which minimum wage will rise this fall.

IN BRIEF

Canyon in Banff, where boy was hit by tree, reopens

A popular Banff National Park tourist attraction where a boy was hit by a falling tree has reopened.

A Parks Canada spokeswoman says the Johnston Canyon Trail is ready for visitors after the removal of 20 trees that were identified as potential problems.

Work to repair the trail, railings and boardwalk was also done.

The trail was closed last week after a boy suffered life-threatening injuries when he was hit by a falling tree.

He was flown by air ambulance to Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary.

There's been no update on his condition.

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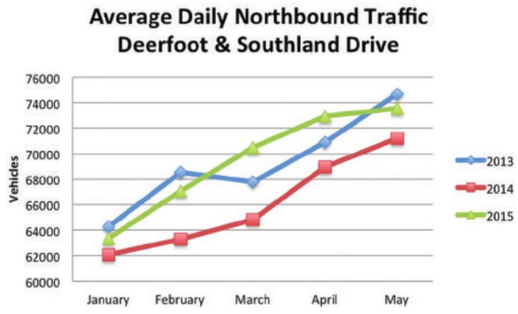
Deerfoot traffic keeps on growing

TRANSPORTATION

Residents in the expanding southeast need public transit

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary



ALBERTA TRANSPORTATION DATA/METRO GRAPH

Coun. Shane Keating isn't surprised traffic on Deerfoot Trail has rebounded to the same levels as before the opening of southeast Stoney Trail, which offers area residents a second thoroughfare to the north.

For the Ward 12 councillor, the math is pretty simple: More people moving to the southeast means more cars on both major roadways, especially in the absence of any new transit options.

"That's very close to what I predicted — I said Stoney will alleviate Deerfoot temporarily, but because of growth, it'll be back almost identically to where it was," Keating said Wednesday when shown new traffic data from Alberta Transportation.

"It's not just growth in south Calgary, but growth south of Calgary, in Okotoks and that whole area. Until we get some viable, accessible and easy public transit in the southeast, the Deerfoot is the only viable option. And that's just going to continue to get worse."

The new data also comes as the city and province begin a three-year study of Deerfoot Trail's traffic needs over the next 30 years.

In the meantime, planned upgrades to the interchange at Southland Drive have been postponed.

Even when traffic levels on Deerfoot were down in 2014, Doug Hayden of the grassroots group LRT On The Green, which has been lobbying for improved transit service to the southeast, said the roughly five per cent reduction didn't amount to "much of a dent" on such a busy roadway.

OPEN HOUSE

To the residents of Calgary:

In 2014 City Council appointed an independent **Ward Boundary Commission** to consider how the current ward boundaries might be revised to accommodate recent population changes and projected future population growth in Calgary to achieve better representation by the respective Councillor.

The **Ward Boundary Commission** wishes to hear from Calgary residents on possible changes to ward boundaries to achieve this goal. The information presented will be the same at each open house.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, July 21	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Genesis Centre, 7555 Falconridge Blvd. N.E.
Thursday, July 23	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Southcentre Mall, Community Room, 100 Anderson Rd. S.E. (signage at mall entrances directing the public)
Tuesday, July 28	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Varsity Community Association, 4303 Varsity Dr. N.W.
Thursday, July 30	4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Recreation, 333 Shawville Blvd. S.E. 2nd floor
Tuesday, Aug. 4	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Municipal Complex Atrium, 800 Macleod Tr. S.E.

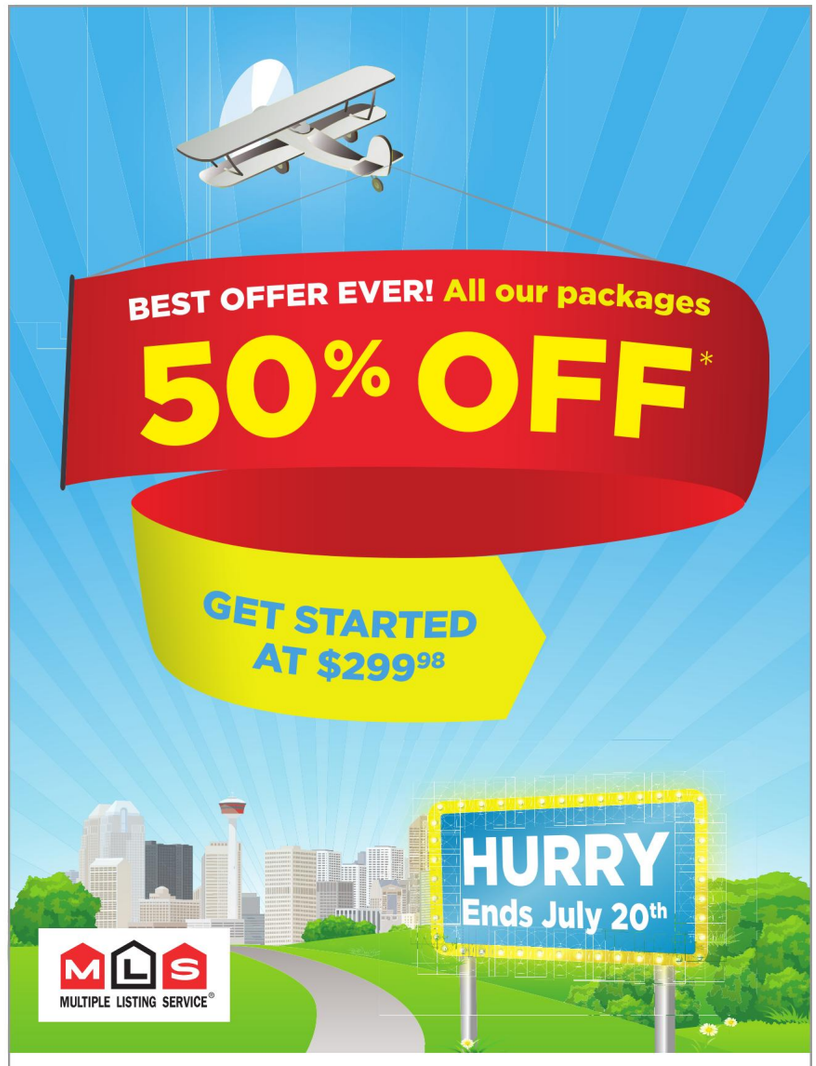
Brief opening remarks by the Commission chairman will be made at **4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** at each open house except August 4, when they will be at **11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.**

Comment sheets will be available at the open houses to receive written input from the public.

For more information email wardboundaries@calgary.ca or visit calgary.ca/wardboundaries.

THE CITY OF CALGARY

2015-1706



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BY THE NUMBERS

How do women in Calgary fare?

In a study released Wednesday, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives ranked Canada's 25 biggest cities by the gender gap in each city. They measured economics, health, leadership, safety and other factors. Calgary ranked near the bottom. For the full story, visit metronews.ca. **METRO**

Calgary comes in second last in the country in the promotion of women into senior management roles, with 29 per cent holding those positions. Only two of Calgary's 15 seats on council are held by women.

29%

23rd

Calgary ranked 23rd out of 25 of Canada's biggest cities in the CCPA's Best and Worst Places to be a Woman in Canada 2015 index.

65%

While employment in Calgary is higher than average for both men and women, women make 65 per cent of what men do. Further, 75 per cent of men have jobs, compared with 66 per cent of women.

#1

Calgary is tops in women who are educated, with 28 per cent holding university degrees. They're also more likely than men in this city to have a high school education. Men, however, are twice as likely to have completed trades training or apprenticeships.

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Defector Orlando Sotolongo, left, with a silver medal teammate in St. Catharines, Ont. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cubans row to silver, then defect

PAN AM GAMES

4 members of rowing team cross border after event

Four Cuban rowers have defected from the Pan American Games and travelled to the United States, their coach said Wednesday.

Liosmel Ramos and Wilber Turro dropped out before the regatta began on Saturday, while Manuel Suarez and Orlando Sotolongo competed in earlier races and then withdrew, said coach Juan Carlos Reyes. The four have been in touch with teammates through Facebook, Reyes said.

> **We have a protocol that we would follow.**
> Saad Rafi, Pan Am Games CEO

The Games rowing venue in St. Catharines, Ont., is only a few kilometres from the U.S. border.

Games officials said Wednesday morning that they weren't aware of the defections.

"I'm not aware of the specific point but we have a protocol that we would follow. This is something that is dealt with through our integrated security unit and if necessary, through the relevant national Olympic committee," said Games CEO Saad Rafi.

Cuban refugees can apply for permanent residence a year after being cleared that they have no criminal or prior immigration history, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement.

Before defecting, two of the rowers had won silver medals at the Pan Am Games: Sotolongo, 18, placed second in the men's quadruple sculls, as did Suarez, 25, in the men's coxless fours.

Turro, Ramos and Suarez won gold together in the men's lightweight coxless four at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Mexico.

Dozens of athletes, many from Cuba, have defected during international sports events over the years.

Eight members of the Cuban delegation defected when Canada last hosted the Pan Am Games in 1999. When Winnipeg first staged the Games in 1967, a Cuban boxer defected shortly after winning a gold medal. Two players from the Cuban women's soccer team defected in 2011 after facing off with the Canadian team in Vancouver in an Olympic qualifying match. They reunited with relatives in the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SASKATCHEWAN

Wildlife heading south to survive fires

The wildfires in northern Saskatchewan have been burning since late May, leaving forests charred and barren and forcing wildlife to find new homes.

Animals such as elk, deer, moose and bears have the instinct to get ahead of the forest fire before it's too late, Darrell Crabbe, executive director of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, told radio station CKOM.

They migrate to habitats that can provide them the food and shelter they need. In this case, many have been moving south.

"It does create those islands of habitat that will protect them," Crabbe said. "We usually get a high concentration of animals there, and it might take them the rest of the summer or fall before they can disperse out of there."

Crabbe said he's heard from people in Candle Lake, for example, who report a noticeable increase in animals in the provincial park just south of the evacuation zone. He said there don't appear to be worries about predators, adding most are concerned about finding a safe spot to stay put.

> **It might take them the rest of the summer ... before they can disperse.**
> Darrell Crabbe

Crabbe said many nesting birds and amphibians will have died in the fires. He's also concerned about at-risk species such as caribou, who live in "old forest" areas that are usually the first to burn. "They probably would make it out but I don't know where would they go from there, because there's not a lot of old forest left across Canada."

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Greece votes for austerity

BAILOUT

Protesters hurl petrol bombs at police as harsh bill debated

Greek lawmakers voted overwhelmingly early Thursday to approve a harsh austerity bill demanded by bailout creditors, despite significant dissent from members of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' left-wing party.

The bill, which imposes sweeping tax hikes and spending cuts, fuelled anger in the governing Syriza party and led to a revolt against Tsipras, who has insisted the deal forged after a marathon weekend eurozone summit was the best he could do to prevent Greece from catastrophically crashing out of Europe's joint currency.

The bill was approved with 229 votes in favour, 64 against and six abstentions — and won the support of three pro-European opposition parties.

The vote came after an anti-austerity demonstration by about 12,000 protesters outside parliament degenerated into violence as the debate was getting underway Wednesday night. Riot police battled youths who hurled petrol bombs for about an hour before the clashes died down.

The bill was the first step Greece must take in order to begin negotiations with creditors on a new bailout — its third in five years — of about 85 billion euros ($93 billion) in loans over three years.

Dissenters argued that Greeks could not face any further cuts after six years of recession that saw poverty and unemployment skyrocket and wiped out a quarter of the country's economy.

Tsipras has been battling all week to persuade party hardliners to back the deal.

"We had a very specific choice: A deal we largely disagreed with, or a chaotic default," he told parliament ahead of the vote.

Tsipras had urged Syriza members to back the bill despite having urged voters to reject earlier, milder creditor demands in a July 5 referendum.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said the deal Greece reached with its creditors on Monday was the only possible choice.

"I must tell you, that Monday morning at 9:30, it was the most difficult day of my life. It was a decision that will weigh on me for the rest of my life," Tsakalotos said.

"I don't know if we did the right thing. But I know we did something with the sense that we had no choice. Nothing was certain and nothing is," he told parliament.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters march in front of the Greek parliament in Athens Wednesday as lawmakers began debating reforms needed to unlock a new eurozone bailout. LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

> **I don't know if we did the right thing.**
> Euclid Tsakalotos, Finance Minister

NO WRITE-OFFS

German officials concede the IMF may be right in saying that Greece's debt is too big to pay, no matter how many years it gets to pay it. Still, they exclude any write-offs. Here's why:

1. It's taxpayers' money, and these are elected officials in a country where bailing out Greeks for previous profligacy is not popular.

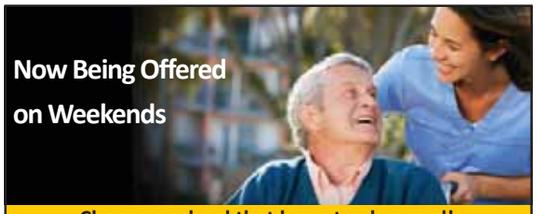
2. The European Union treaty forbids countries from taking on each other's debts.

3. Give one country a break, and others may wonder why they can't have one, too.

4. Future eurozone governments may look at the debt writedown and feel less compelled to keep debt under control.

5. Since its first bailout in 2010, Greece has been promising reforms. Somehow it never quite gets done.

THE ASSOCIATED Ppress



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AUSCHWITZ

SS guard, 94, gets four years

Oskar Groening confessed during his trial to feeling "moral guilt" for serving as an SS sergeant at Auschwitz. On Wednesday, a court ruled that he was guilty of being an accessory to the murder of 300,000 Jews and sentenced him to four years in prison.

The 94-year-old, who testified that he oversaw the collection of prisoners' belongings — and ensured valuables and cash were separated to be sent to Berlin — listened expressionlessly to the verdict after a 2-1/2-month trial.

The verdict, and presiding Judge Franz Kompisch's detailing of the Lueneburg state court's ruling, renewed hope of more 11th-hour prosecutions of former members of the SS who served at death camps — no matter their age.

"This verdict was critical, because this is the first case brought where the prosecution charged a person who wasn't involved in the physical side of mass murder," said the Simon Wiesenthal Center's head Nazi hunter, Efraim Zuroff, in a telephone interview from Belgrade.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPACE

Scientists amazed at first close-ups of Pluto and moon

Scientists have released the first up-close images ever of Pluto and its big moon Charon. And they say they're amazed.

The long-awaited images were unveiled Wednesday in Maryland, home to mission operations for NASA's New Horizons spacecraft.

A zoom-in of Pluto reveals an icy range about as high as the Rockies. To the scientists' great surprise, there are no impact craters. On Charon, deep troughs and canyons can be seen.

The images were collected as New Horizons swept within 12,400 kilometres of Pluto on Tuesday, becoming Pluto's first visitor in its 4.5 billion-year existence. Scientists didn't know until Tuesday night that the encounter was a success.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image provided by NASA on Wednesday shows a region near Pluto's equator. NASA/JHUAPL/SWRI VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORWAY

Fuel tanker crashes in tunnel

The trailer of a tanker truck with some 16,500 litres of fuel got loose Wednesday and crashed into a subsea tunnel wall, causing a huge explosion, Norwegian rescue officials said. No one was seriously hurt.

The tunnel has been closed to everyone except firefighters. More than 20 people were evacuated from the tunnel and a nearby house, police spokesman Joern Lasse Refsnes said. He said three people were checked for smoke inhalation at a nearby hospital.

Rescue spokeswoman Magni Brandsoey said the truck driver was able to get out and call a rescue centre. It was not clear how the trailer got loose.

Truck driver Tore Myrestrand told local newspaper Firda he had problems with the brakes in the deepest part of the tunnel that goes 91 metres below sea level.

He said he rushed to grab an emergency phone in the tunnel to have it closed immediately.

Photos posted on Norwegian media show a huge black billow of smoke in the mountainous area in western Norway.

The explosion happened in a 1,901-metre subsea tunnel linking two islands in the Sogn og Fjordane county.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This fierce-looking robotic dinosaur is the Weird Hotel's English-speaking receptionist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robots run weird hotel

JAPAN

Humans have few essential jobs except for security

From the receptionist that checks in and checks out patrons to the porter that's an automated trolley taking luggage up to the room, this hotel in southwestern Japan, aptly called Weird Hotel, is almost totally "staffed" by robots to save labour costs.

Hideo Sawada, who runs the hotel as part of an amusement park in the city of Sasebo, in Nagasaki prefecture, insists using robots is not a gimmick but a serious effort to utilize technology and achieve efficiency.

The receptionist robot that speaks in English is a vicious-looking dinosaur; the one that speaks Japanese is a female humanoid with blinking lashes.

"If you want to check in, push One," the dinosaur says. The visitor still has to punch a button on the desk and type in information on a touch screen.

Henn na Hotel, as it is called in Japanese, was shown to reporters Wednesday, complete with robot demonstrations, ahead of its opening to the public Friday.

Another feature of the hotel is the use of facial-recognition technology instead of the standard electronic keys. A digital image of the guest's face is registered during check-in.

The reason? Robots aren't good at finding keys if people happen to lose them.

A giant robotic arm, usually seen in manufacturing, is encased in glass quarters in the corner of the lobby. It lifts one of the boxes stacked into the wall and moves it out through a space in the glass, where a guest can place an item in it.

The arm will put the box back into the wall until the guest wants it again.

The system is called the "robot cloak room."

"I wanted to highlight innovation," Sawada told reporters. "I also wanted to do something about hotel prices going up."

Staying at Henn na Hotel starts at 9,000 yen ($80 US), a bargain for Japan, where a stay in one of the nicer hotels can easily cost two or three times that much.

The concierge is a doll-like hairless robot with voice recognition that prattles breakfast and event information. However, it cannot call a cab or do other errands.

One area Henn na Hotel still relies on human beings is security. The place is dotted with security cameras, and real people watch everything through a monitor to make sure guests stay safe and no one makes off with one of the expensive robots.

In the hotel's rooms, a lamp-size robot in the shape of a fat pink tulip called Tuly answers simple questions like, "What time is it?" and "What is the weather tomorrow?" You can also tell it to turn the room lights on or off; there are no switches on the walls.

Sawada cancelled at the last minute the overnight stay planned for media. The robots simply weren't ready.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

Online forum for cybercriminals closed

Investigators have shut down what they call the world's largest-known English-language malware forum, an online marketplace called Darkode where cybercriminals bought and sold hacked databases, malicious software and other products that could cripple or steal information from computer systems, the U.S. Justice Department announced Wednesday.

More than 70 cybercriminals in the United States and 19 other countries are targets of the investigation, authorities said. Some have been charged, while others were the subject of search warrants because some countries require evidence to be seized before criminal charges can be filed, investigators said.

On the forum, hackers sold malware or solicited others to install it on unsuspecting victims' computers, investigators said. Marketplace members also bought and sold stolen databases, some containing millions of email addresses or personal information, often used in identity-theft and computer fraud schemes.

The site, which had 250 to 300 active members, including some in Canada, was shut down by authorities Tuesday.

Hackers couldn't just log onto the site. They had to be vouched for or nominated by current members to be able to buy, sell or solicit illegal wares or services on the site, authorities said.

Darkode's advertised products included personal information of 39,000 people from a database of Social Security identification numbers and 20 million emails and usernames that could be used to target people for identity theft, phishing emails or other schemes.

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50622 5DR RS turbo & leather $26,635 20.38% $21,207
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DISCIPLINARY CHARGES

N.Y. escapee now out of prison infirmary

Former fugitive David Sweat was released from a prison infirmary Wednesday and is facing new disciplinary charges stemming from his escape from an upstate New York correctional facility.

The 35-year-old murderer, who was shot and wounded during his June 28 capture, is being housed at the Special Housing Unit at Five Points Correctional Facility in central New York. Inmates in that maximum security unit are kept in solitary cells for 23 hours a day.

The disciplinary charges relate to Sweat's actions as an inmate and are separate from any criminal charges that could be filed against Sweat relating to the prison break, state prison officials said Wednesday.

"A hearing officer will determine the extent of Sweat's misconduct and, if appropriate, impose a penalty including continued placement within the Special Housing Unit," the state's Department of Corrections and Community Supervision said in a statement.

Sweat and fellow convicted murderer Richard Matt escaped from Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora in early June. Matt was shot dead on June 26 in woods near Malone, about 48 kilometres from the prison. Sweat was shot by a trooper and captured two days later near the Canadian border. He was treated at an Albany hospital before being moved to the infirmary at Five Points.

Authorities say Matt and Sweat cut through their adjoining cell walls over months, climbed down catwalks to tunnels, got hold of contractors' tools, broke through a brick wall, cut into and out of a steam pipe and cut a chain holding a manhole cover outside the prison to get away. Sweat is serving a life sentence for killing a sheriff's deputy; Matt, 49, was serving 25 years to life after being convicted of kidnapping and dismembering his former boss.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A motorcycle adapted to a rail sits in the tunnel under the half-built house where according to authorities, drug lord Joaquin (El Chapo) Guzman made his escape from the Altiplano maximum security prison in Almoloya, west of Mexico City, Tuesday. EDUARDO VERDUGO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Video reveals escape tunnel

MEXICAN DRUG LORD

Widespread manhunt failed to turn up any trace

Mexico's most prized prisoner paced his cell, first to the latrine, then the shower, then the bed. At every turn around the tiny room, drug lord Joaquin (El Chapo) Guzman checked the shower floor hidden by a half wall, because even jailed criminals get their privacy.

In his final sweep, Guzman sat on his bed and took off his shoes. Then he walked back to the shower, stooped behind the wall and disappeared. It was the beginning of an escape odyssey straight out of the pages of fiction, and the media were given a peek on Tuesday of the deep and sophisticated tunnel that led the leader of the Sinaloa cartel, whose illicit drug trafficking reach includes Europe and Asia, swiftly to freedom late Saturday night.

On Wednesday, about 30 people, who said they were relatives of prison guards detained since Guzman's escape, protested outside the Altiplano prison. They declined to give their names, but some carried signs calling for "due process" and "no witch hunt." They said they had not been allowed to speak to their relatives since the escape.

Government video of Guzman's final moments in his cell and journalists' climb into the tunnel revealed a high-tech engineering feat three stories underground, where planners and builders managed to burrow through dirt and rock right to the one spot in Guzman's cell that surveillance cameras couldn't see.

Mexico's security commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido said Tuesday that up to the moment Guzman disappeared, his pacing was considered normal for someone who lives in about five square meters (60 square feet) with only an hour a day outside for exercise. But there was nothing usual after he lifted a slab of concrete shower floor and descended into a warm and humid man-made underworld, where a motorcycle rigged to two carts on rails waited to whisk him away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BESTSELLER

Escape of drug lord 'El Chapo' boosts sales for Don Winslow novel The Cartel

The escape of Mexican drug lord "El Chapo" has meant more sales for a crime novel that features the escape of a Mexican drug lord. Don Winslow's The Cartel, published last month to enthusiastic reviews, jumped within 24 hours from No. 287 to No. 66 as of midday Wednesday on Amazon.com's bestseller list. Winslow's novel is a follow-up to a previous work on the drug wars, The Power of the Dog, and centres on a deadly rivalry between a Drug Enforcement Administration agent and a Mexican cartel kingpin based on El Chapo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BoC cuts key interest rate

FINANCE

Loonie dives to post-recession low with rate reduction

The Bank of Canada cut its key interest rate on Wednesday, slashed its outlook for the economy and predicted a contraction in the second quarter due to lower oil prices and slumping exports — but the central bank governor wouldn't describe the country's economic woes as a recession.

The bank cut its target for the overnight rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 0.5 per cent, sending the Canadian dollar plunging to a post-recession low.

The loonie was down more than a full U.S. cent Wednesday afternoon to levels not seen since March 2009, when Canada was in the midst of a deep recession.

At one point, Canada's dollar was worth about 77.29 cents US, down from the previous close, but had been even lower earlier in the day.

TD Canada Trust was the first of Canada's banks to respond, though it only passed part of the rate cut as it reduced its prime rate by a tenth of a percentage point to 2.75 per cent. Moves in the prime rate directly affect the amount charged on loans such as variable rate mortgages and floating rate lines of credit.

The central bank also explained its lower outlook for economic growth — from 1.9 per cent earlier this year to 1.1 per cent — is due to Canadian oil producers cutting their investment plans by close to 40 per cent this year, compared with an earlier estimate of about 30 per cent.

> **It's not a true recession, since an employment decline hasn't joined in.**
> Avery Shenfeld, CIBC chief economist

"It's not a true recession, since an employment decline hasn't joined in with the tumble in output measures, but the GDP decline opened a window for a further ease by a dovishly inclined Bank of Canada governor," CIBC chief economist Avery Shenfeld said following the bank's announcement.

Slowing growth in China and non-resource exports faltering — a trend the bank described as "a puzzle that merits further study" — have also played a part in Canada's economic difficulties.

Nonetheless, Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz said exports are expected to fuel growth in the second half of the year.

The rate cut marked the second time this year that the Bank of Canada has reduced its target for the overnight rate. By slashing it, the central bank is hoping to jumpstart the economy by making it cheaper for consumers and companies to borrow money.

Economists had been split in their predictions about what the Bank of Canada would do, with most, but not all, calling for a rate cut. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada Senior Deputy Governor Carolyn Wilkins and Governor Stephen Poloz respond to questions during a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FASHION

Le Chateau matures clothing line in turnaround bid

Le Chateau hopes to reverse years of financial losses by introducing a more mature line to customers who were loyal in their rebellious youth but are now seeking fashionable office attire.

"We were young and rebellious when we started in the '60s and that whole era of society has changed so we're now having to offer our product in the right way for today's culture," founder Herschel Segal said in an interview after Wednesday's annual meeting.

The Montreal-based retailer has been looking for ways to stem four years of losses amid declining sales.

While Segal said the company has moved slowly to reposition itself, it is regaining its footing and making the right moves.

That includes going more upscale by targeting working men and women in their 20s to mid-30s.

Executive vice-president Franco Rocchi said the targeted customer can also be older and include those who fondly remember shopping at Le Chateau before they had jobs, got married or had children.

"We were a rite of passage and a lot of the market remembers us as that and we want to let them know that our product today has now grown up."

With the help of ad agency Sid Lee, Le Chateau plans to promote its more mature styling in an ad campaign next month as it prepares to introduce a loyalty card in 2016 and expand its online wedding boutique launched last spring.

Le Chateau has been developing the change over the past few years, including the rollout of a new store concept that features better lighting, more comfortable fitting rooms and grouping clothing displays by use, such as daywear, career and special occasion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

APPLE

New iPod Touch gets better processor, camera

Although the iPod's popularity has waned, Apple is updating its music player for the first time in nearly three years by giving the flagship Touch model a faster processor and better cameras.

The new iPod Touch also enables Apple Music, a $10-a-month service that offers unlimited playback of millions of songs. Apple Music launched June 30 as music fans increasingly embrace subscriptions over pay-per-song services such as Apple's industry-leading iTunes.

Although music players existed before the original iPod's debut in 2001, the iPod was the first to simplify syncing with digital music collections on personal computers. It was Apple's first success beyond personal computers and began a company transformation that led to the iPhone in 2007, the iPad in 2010 and the Apple Watch this year.

Many people now listen to music on smartphones rather than iPods, though. Sales of iPods peaked at nearly 55 million in fiscal 2008, the year after the iPhone came out. In the most recent fiscal year, which ended last September, Apple sold 14 million iPods — compared to 169 million iPhones.

Among the improvements are an improved processor that now matches that in the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus from last fall, rather than one from the iPhone 4s in 2011. Apple says the new chip is six times faster for general tasks and 10 times faster for graphics.

The rear camera can now take sharper pictures, at 8 megapixels. That matches recent iPhones and exceeds the 5 megapixels in the previous Touch.

Apple is introducing a new $399 model with 128 gigabytes, matching the iPhone's maximum capacity. The $199 base model has 16 gigabytes, enough for thousands of songs, though the iPod Touch is meant to hold photos, video and apps, too. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This composite image showcases some of the colours that Apple's new iPod Touch is available in upon its launch on Wednesday. The company is refreshing its flagship music player for the first time in nearly three years as Apple seeks to make music a central focus of its devices. APPLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Amazon hits Prime target
Amazon aimed for Christmas in July with its much-hyped "Prime Day" sale. But some shoppers found a lump of coal instead. The online retailer said Prime Day would offer bigger sales than those during the winter holiday shopping season, but some Amazon customers were disappointed by Prime Day. Some thought the discounts weren't deep enough. Early data showed the promotion boosted sales, though. Amazon said by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, the speed with which customers were ordering had already surpassed 2014 Black Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tilley sold to U.K. company
Tilley Endurables, the Toronto company behind the iconic Tilley hat, now has a British overlord but its signature line is still as Canadian as maple syrup, says president and CEO Mary Coleen Shanahan.

Tilley announced Wednesday it had been sold in late April to a subsidiary of U.K.-based private equity firm Hilco Capital, known for its investments in distressed companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 77.40¢ (-1.09¢)
TSX 14,662.88 (+62.88)
OIL $51.41 US (-$1.63)
GOLD $1,147.40 US (-$6.10)

NATURAL GAS: $2.92US (+7.8¢)
DOW JONES: 18,050.17 (-3.41)

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Butt out for bucks: A New England Journal of Medicine study offered a group of smokers a cash bribe that increased if more people quit. It worked.

July 16, 2015

URBAN ETIQUETTE: ELLEN VANSTONE ON LITTERBUGS

THE QUESTION

While driving recently, I noticed people in the car ahead of me were throwing candy wrappers out the window. Was I right to draw attention to their anti-social behaviour?

Dear Ellen,

While driving recently, I noticed people in the car ahead of me were throwing candy wrappers out the window. At the next red light, I put my car in park, stormed up to the driver's window, and proceeded to strongly suggest they NOT throw garbage on to the street. They were extremely shocked! I actually felt kind of bad about upsetting the nice-looking group of young men and women who were clearly on their way to work.

Would it have been better to just ignore them? Or was I right to draw their attention to their anti-social behaviour?

Sincerely, Ellen.

Dear Ellen,

Okay, yes, I'm the Ellen who wrote that letter — the reason being that I feel strongly about littering and I simply cannot trust that a reader will bring up the subject eventually, or ever. It's an important topic, and I'm being completely transparent here about my agenda and my motives.

Also, the letter itself is sincere and factually accurate. I have, on occasion, gotten out of my car to remind other drivers on the road not to eject garbage from their car windows. In my expert opinion, I am perfectly within my rights to do so — I was respectful in my interaction with the litterbugs, and my actions were in keeping with the moral responsibility we all carry, which is to speak up against crimes both big and small against society rather than turn our backs on, and thus implicitly condone, destructive behaviours that hurt us all.

That being said, I do not advise any reader to follow my example. And, having thought it through, I won't do it again myself.

If they're rude or ignorant enough to litter, who knows what other distasteful or even violent tendencies they might have?

First of all, it probably isn't safe to leave your car running in the middle of the road in order to chase down another car for the purposes of delivering a lecture on urban etiquette. Secondly, you have no idea who these litterbugs might be — if they're rude or ignorant enough to litter, who knows what other distasteful or even violent tendencies they might have? Thirdly, if you have passengers in your own car, it is inconsiderate, ergo rude, to abandon them in the middle of traffic, not to mention make them fear for their own safety if the litterbugs you are lecturing do tend towards violence and decide to retaliate physically.

If, however, you happen to be on foot and run into another (non-violent-looking) pedestrian who is tossing their trash willy-nilly, don't be afraid to say something. We're not talking public shaming here, just a friendly reminder that trash goes into trash bins.

DIRTY MONEY

Bylaws vary by community and what you're dumping, but littering is illegal everywhere. See how much a careless toss can set you back in cities across the country:

Halifax: $464
Ottawa: $305
Toronto: $365
Winnipeg: $100 - $4,000
Calgary: $500-$1,000
Edmonton: $250
Vancouver: up to $2,000

Need advice?
Email Ellen
scene@metronews.ca

metroview

Pay your own way on dates: It's the feminist thing to do

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Every time I think we finally live in a progressive utopia, I see something like this Facebook post, from a female friend:

"Just went on a first date. A blind date. And had to pay. For both of us." The comments: "No more dates for that guy," "Uhhh winner!"

I find this attitude bratty, sexist and out of date. Think of how much paying for dates — even only first dates — adds up over a man's lifetime. It's only fair that ladies pay once in a while. With a few exceptions (if you suggest somewhere fancy, you pay), going Dutch should be the default.

To be clear: I'm talking about dating here. Treating your long-term partner once in a while is lovely. But by that time, you're making financial decisions as a de facto family unit. I'm also being a tad heteronormative (with same-sex dating, I'm told it's more common to split the bill).

I asked my date the other day what he'd do if a woman he was seeing never paid. He said he'd never ask, but simmer with resentment and eventually dump her. Seems time to break the taboo and communicate about money.

Conventionally, the asker pays. But if you meet online or on a dance floor and have been texting for a while, how do you even know who asked?

The lad mag Ask Men advises, "Make the first move when the bill comes. This goes not just for the first date, but the early stages of the relationship. It indicates you're responsible. Women like that."

There's no argument for men paying that doesn't boil down to sexist garbage: "It makes me feel special" (work on your self-confidence), "It shows he's serious" (try asking if he's serious) and "I deserve to be treated" (the world doesn't owe you, princess).

Several male friends I asked said whoever's the least broke should pay — fair, though impractical. But a couple said a girl who asks to split is trying to make things non-romantic.

Getting treated's not romantic. This tradition didn't evolve because of chivalry. Now the gender wage gap is narrowing for professionals without kids, but historically women didn't have their own money.

Yet nothing was free. Having your meal paid for sets up a dynamic. You get a gift, and give something in return: your time, attention or more. It's a form of social control, though most men wouldn't see it that way. They're just being nice and following norms.

Paying your way signals you're there because you want to be. Being assertive about this can be hard. So say, "I always pay my share. It's important to me." Call it a political stance. You don't want to be with someone who doesn't respect your views anyways.

So do your part to change the culture. Next time you're catching a server's eye, think of the feminists who fought for your right to men's problems — work drama, combat wounds, and now, paying for dates. Then reach for your purse.

Rosemary Westwood will return Monday

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan

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Your essential daily news

Dan Aykroyd to join the gals in new female-led Ghostbusters movie

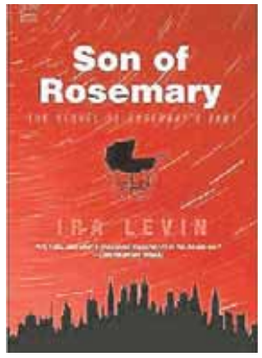
Seven classics, revisited

SEQUELS

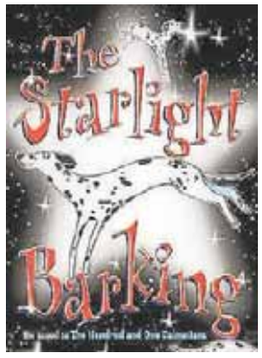
To Kill a Mockingbird isn't the only classic to get a Part Two

Asia Ewart
Metro | New York

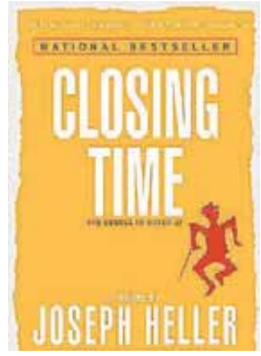
With Harper's Lee's Go Set a Watchman hitting shelves, we've rounded up sequels to some of the most popular reads of the last two centuries



Son of Rosemary
by Ira Levin
After 26 years in a coma caused by the Castevets' Satanic coven, Rosemary awakens to find that her son Adrian is now an adult trying to do good in the world, despite his evil origins. The reunion turns sinister when she learns Adrian might not be able to help who he is and the human race could be doomed.



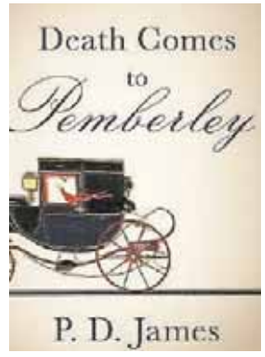
The Starlight Barking
by Dodie Smith
This sequel puts a sci-fi spin on the classic tale of an English couple and their 101 Dalmatians. When every human on Earth suddenly falls into a deep sleep, Dalmatians Pongo and Missus — along with the Prime Minister's dog Cadpig and other canines across London — must gather to discuss what to do. They are joined by an extraterrestrial dog who attempts to help by giving them an otherworldly option.



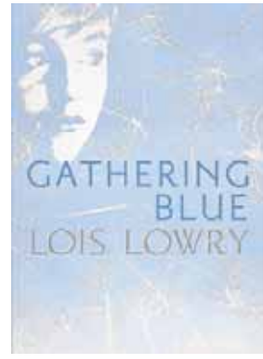
Closing Time
by Joseph Heller
Fifty years after Catch-22, Closing Time finds protagonist Yossarian as an older man at the end of his life in Manhattan. Readers can expect another stint in the hospital. Yossarian now working for Milo Minderbinder, Chaplain Tappman making an appearance, underground tunnels and a lot of talk of death.

Little Men
by Louisa May Alcott
Set after Little Women, Little Men follows second eldest sister Jo and her husband Friedrich Bhaer as they run a school for boys at the Plumfield estate. We're introduced to students, among them orphans, street youth, Jo's sons Rob and Teddy and members of the Bhaer family, and follow their interactions with each other and the world over the course of six months.

That Was Then, This is Now
by S.E. Hinton
This unofficial sequel to The Outsiders also takes place in Tulsa, Okla. and features characters from the first book. Brothers Bryon and Mark feel a strain in their relationship when they must find money for their mother's medical bills on top of dealing with girlfriends and local gangs.



Death Comes to Pemberley
by P.D. James
Although not written by Jane Austen, this murder-mystery followup was widely enjoyed and praised upon its release. Taking place six years after Pride and Prejudice, on the night of an annual ball, a family member of the Darcys and the Bingleys is killed on Pemberley grounds. The group must find out who present did it and why.



Gathering Blue
by Lois Lowry
Lois Lowry's middle school classic The Giver is actually the first of a quartet. Each follows a character connected to The Giver's Jonas. All live in villages in the same dystopian world. While all possess unique abilities, from embroidery to mind reading, it is ultimately their interactions that encourage a move to a safer community.

ON SHELVES

Harper Lee book gets mixed reviews

• Harper Lee's second novel flew out of stores Tuesday in one of the most eagerly anticipated book releases in modern publishing history.

• Lee's only previous novel is considered a 20th Century classic that defined racial injustice in the Depression-era South of the U.S. and became standard reading in classrooms across the world.

• But many Lee fans have been hurt, embarrassed and even angered that Scout's adored father Atticus has turned into a bigot, a fall from grace for one of America's most loved literary heroes. AFP

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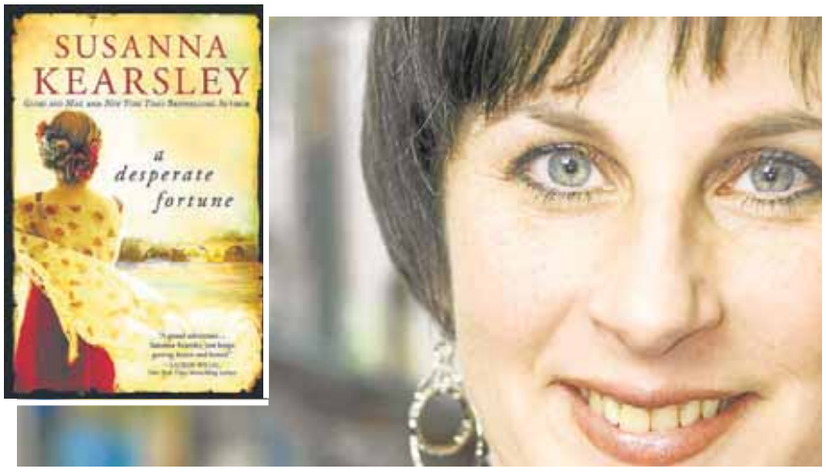


Susanna Kearsley blends well-researched history with her own personal experiences to invoke a positive portrayal of a character living with Asperger syndrome in her new novel, A Desperate Fortune. CONTRIBUTED

When Susanna Kearsley writes, she describes the experience as if she has a film playing in her head.

"I'm on the main character's shoulder and I'm following along like a camera. I see what they see and I write down what they say," she says. "A lot of times the characters won't start talking until I'm standing on the spot where the characters are talking."

Those characters' words have filled Kearsley's passport with stamps from the U.K., Italy and other European locales. For her latest historical time-shifting caper, A Desperate Fortune, published by Simon & Schuster Canada, Kearsley bunked down at a gorgeous mid-1800s guest house just outside Paris. The chateau inspired the residence of the book's protagonist, Sara Thomas, a computer programmer turned amateur code-cracker, who is hired to decipher a 300-year-old journal from Mary Dundas, an exiled Scottish Jacobite who becomes involved in a dangerous plan to smuggle a lead figure of the political movement to Rome.

While Kearsley's 12 novels (including a thriller written under the pseudonym Emma Cole) are popular for their signature mix of irresistible romance, mystery and adventure, the New York Times' bestselling author is equally noted for her research and strong attention to historical accuracy.

During her travels, she studies every detail, from public transit to the smell of the air.

"The research for me is a constant really happy rabbit hole that I go down on a daily basis," she says. "You have to get the lives of the present-day people right as well, especially if it's set in a country where you're not living. You have to make sure the details are accurate, that the landscapes you're moving them through are accurate and that the jobs of the people are accurate."

It was a lesson that Kearsley took from her position as curator of a Canadian village museum, where at 22 years old, it was her job to interpret the lives of past generations.

"I try to make the past something that modern people can step into and can experience and know in a way that we can't always get out of strictly historical non-fiction. We tend to forget that people haven't changed that much. It's the ordinary lives I like to get into."

One of Kearsley's biggest — and most personal — challenges for A Desperate Fortune was to get Sara correct.

Diagnosed with Asperger syndrome as a teen, the character finds numbers soothing but experiences difficulties in many of her relationships. Kearsley drew on the experiences of her own family members with Asperger's, who acted like fact-checkers for the storyline.

"It was important for me to get that as right as possible because you don't see a lot of positive portrayals with people with Asperger's," says Kearsley. "Very often they end up being the punchline or the comic person around whom the plot evolves. I wanted to show someone who is a more accurate reflection of my own Aspies. Someone who is very competent, very intelligent; has a few challenges but is capable of having a good, relatively normal life."

Although Kearsley says, "research fuels the book and the book fuels the research," ultimately she doesn't feel the book is successful unless there's an underlying humanity.

"You want the reader to walk away having cared about the people, and maybe learned a little about the past and feel a little more connected and have it not be a place filled with starchy people you don't understand." *Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.*

Final chapter for killer anti-hero

NOVEL TURNED TV SHOW

Dexter gets a second ending as author says goodbye

Spoiler alert: Book Dexter does not become a lumberjack.

The eighth and final novel in the Dexter series, Dexter Is Dead, now in bookstores, picks up from the end of the previous book, with the titular vigilante serial killer under arrest and facing a murder charge — ironically for a crime he didn't actually commit.

"I always knew that someday the wheels would come off," author Jeff Lindsay said.

Starting with the 2004 novel Darkly Dreaming Dexter, the series follows the exploits of Dexter Morgan, a blood spatter analyst with the Miami-Dade Police Department. Following a code developed by his adoptive father — a police officer — to only kill other killers, Dexter balances a public life of work, friends and family with his not-so-public, homicidal pastime. But now Dexter's story is coming to a climatic conclusion.

Boy oh boy oh boy, did I get mail about that

Jeff Lindsay on fan reaction to the Dexter TV series finale

"I had all these wonderful, outrageous ideas for how it would happen, and I didn't end up using any of them, which I guess is par for the course," Lindsay said. "Your first idea, the one that gets you going, is never the one you end up with."

It's safe to assume that none of those ideas involved Dexter faking his death and starting a new life in the Pacific Northwest as a lumberjack. That's how the Dexter television series based on Lindsay's characters concluded in 2013 after eight seasons.

"Boy oh boy oh boy, did I get mail about that," Lindsay said.

While the first season of the show kept relatively close to the first novel, the plotlines of later seasons had virtually nothing to do with the books. So Lindsay could only tell irate fans, "It wasn't me."

Fan reaction aside, Lindsay said he doesn't really have an opinion on the final episode because he didn't actually see it. He had just started a 10-month book tour for his previous novel, Dexter's Final Cut, and he didn't get a chance to watch the show's finale.

"So I don't have any opinion on whether it was good or bad except that TV is very, very different," Lindsay said. "The demands of that medium are very different from what is demanded in the book, and it's never going to be the same thing. I'm sure they (the show's producers) did what they thought was right."

Lindsay said he has mixed feelings about leaving a popular character and a successful book series behind.

"This is kind of what I had always wanted, to have a book series like that," Lindsay said. "And to say goodbye to it is like launching yourself into the unknown and starting over again. But it was time. I don't think it got stale, but I felt like someday soon it might start to get stale on me. Better to go out on top, leave them wanting more."

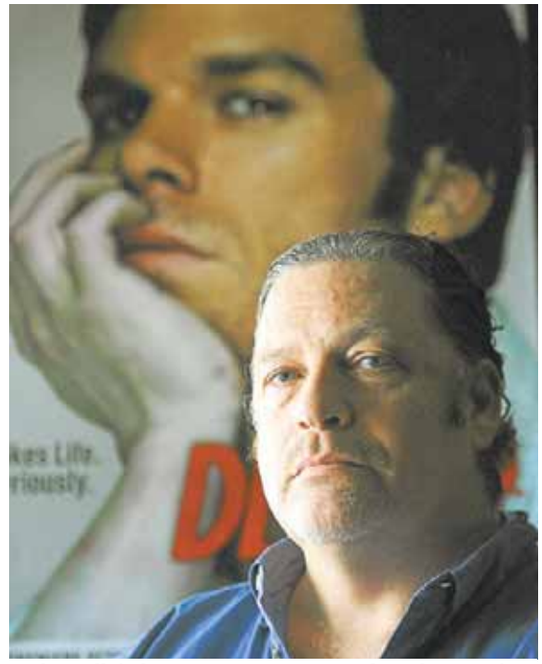
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOICE OF DEX

Lindsay said he was never bothered by the gruesome murders or the violent psychopaths he spent more than a decade writing about. He credits this to the training he received years ago while pursuing an acting career in Hollywood.

"One of the things they taught us was how to be the wacky neighbour on the hit sitcom," Lindsay said. "It's not who you are. You go home, and you take the costume off. You have dinner with the family. And the next day, you go in and put the costume on again. And that's always the way I wrote Dexter."

While Lindsay's acting career never really took off, he did get to use his voice-acting skills by performing the audiobooks of the last four Dexter novels, starting with the cannibalism-themed Dexter Is Delicious.



Author Jeff Lindsay poses next to a poster from the TV series Dexter at his home in Cape Coral, Fla., in 2006. The eighth and final novel in the Dexter series, Dexter Is Dead, was published on July 7. LUIS M. ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

5 HIGHLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK FASHION WEEK: MEN'S

New York Fashion Week has always celebrated the glamour of women's fashion, but has relegated menswear to a supporting role. This week, building on a growing public appetite for men's fashion, the industry is putting on the first stand-alone men's fashion week in New York in nearly two decades. Here are some highlights of New York Fashion Week: Men's THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2005 BMW X5 4.4I
OWN IT FOR $12,990+GST
STK# CA10077
2010 FORD FUSION SEL
OWN IT FOR $11,900+GST
STK# P10072
2011 NISSAN JUKE
OWN IT FOR $12,900+GST
STK# P10034
2013 KIA OPTIMA
OWN IT FOR $21,990+GST
2011 HONDA RIDGELINE
OWN IT FOR $25,990+GST
2010 DODGE RAM 1500
OWN IT FOR $25,990+GST
2012 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED
OWN IT FOR $18,995+GST
2014 FORD E-250
OWN IT FOR $24,490+GST
AMVIC
PLEASE READ: All offers OAC. All offers include fees and taxes but exclude GST. Inventory accurate at time of publication. Vehicles depicted may not be exactly as shows. Conditions may apply. Prior sales not eligible. Limited time offers. See dealer for full details.
WOOD AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

1 Public School

The hot young brand Public School put its models in glassed rooms for a series of jailhouse lineups. "No. 3, step forward," a recorded voice commanded at one point during the packed presentation. He obliged. The spring/summer 2016 collection in the brand's signature palette of black, white, grey and navy was a mix of athletic details with crisp tailored trousers, short and long, and lapelled jackets, sleeveless and not. LEANNE ITALIE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2 EFM Engineered for Motion

A summery look from EFM Engineered for Motion's S/S 2016 collection. GETTY IMAGES

3 Eponymovs By Hvrminn

Eponymovs By Hvrminn's "refined but revolutionary" take on men's fashion. GETTY IMAGES

4 Michael Bastian

Michael Bastian showed preppy looks like this one. GETTY IMAGES

5 Kenneth Ning

Two fashion-forward creations from Kenneth Ning. GETTY IMAGES

COMIC-CON

Eisenberg elaborates

Jesse Eisenberg. GETTY IMAGES

The Social Network star Jesse Eisenberg has raised more than a few eyebrows with his not-too-nice analogy for his experience of attending Comic-Con last week.

"It is like being screamed at by thousands of people," he told the Huffington Post. "I don't know what the experience is throughout history, probably some kind of genocide. I can't think of anything that's equivalent."

Yikes. But don't worry, the comments have attracted enough attention that Eisenberg has had a chance to clear up any confusion, telling the Hollywood Reporter, "I of course was using hyperbole to describe the sensory overload I experienced. I sometimes do employ that."

Well, sure. Why not? "I'm a normal person who has normal sensory experiences, so Comic-Con was very overwhelming for me. That said, it was really an honour to be on that end of such jubilation." So, all good now? NED EHRBAR/METRO

Baby news shocks fans

metroGOSSIP MUST READ

One Direction fans dismayed by report Louis Tomlinson to be a father. GETTY IMAGES

ONE DIRECTION

Tomlinson of One Direction announces he will be a dad

One Direction fans reacted with dismay Wednesday to a report that band member Louis Tomlinson is to become a father.

Publicist Simon Jones declined to comment on a People magazine report saying 23-year-old Tomlinson is expecting a child with American stylist Briana Jungwirth.

Fans responded on Twitter using the hashtag #OhNoLouis, and one wrote a song called No Birth Control teasing the boy band star. On the streets of London, reaction ranged from shock to disbelief.

"Is it an accident?" asked 16-year-old Australian fan Tara Kay. "That's crazy."

Clara Foxonet, a 16-year-old fan from France, refused to believe it. "It can't be real! It's not possible," she said.

Australian fan Kiri Deane-Spread Speir, 17, said the news was "a shock. But I am not going to get angry ... If he is happy, I am happy."

And 18-year-old Solveig Diers from Germany wondered how the news would affect the band's carefree image and its popularity with teen and preteen girls.

"It doesn't fit into their perfect picture of a boy group," she said.

The chart-topping British band was formed in 2010 after five teenagers — Tomlinson, Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Niall Horan and Zayn Malik — auditioned individually for the British TV talent show The X Factor. Simon Cowell had the idea of putting them together as a boy band.

Malik quit the group earlier this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEAL OF APPROVAL; ARMED ROBBERY

You wear it well

Rod Stewart says he's angry an image of him wearing a seal-skin coat is being used to support the industry.

The musician was in St. John's, N.L., to play a concert and stopped into a store to pick up capes for some of his crew. A message posted on his Facebook page says the shop's owner asked if he would pose for a photo in the jacket. The post says Stewart regrets he didn't check what the jacket was made of and is upset the photo is being used as an advertisement for an industry he does not support.

Darren Halloran of the store Always in Vogue says Stewart and his entourage were informed and it's possible he wasn't aware of the politics surrounding the seal industry. Halloran says he's sorry Stewart is getting some criticism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Brown home invasion

Three armed men in masks forced their way into a Los Angeles home owned by Chris Brown, locked the R&B singer's aunt in a closet and then ransacked the place for valuables, police said.

Brown was not at the home during the robbery which happened around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Officer Liliana Preciado said. The suspects got away with an unknown amount of cash, electronics and personal items, she said. Brown's aunt was not hurt.

Investigators have not released descriptions of the suspects, who were armed with handguns and wore bandanas around their faces, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KARDASHIAN

Kim acts pregnant

Maybe it doesn't count as news that Kim Kardashian is being more than a little demanding while pregnant.

I mean, this is Kim Kardashian we're talking about. But apparently, even though she's not the most reasonable person on a normal day and has already been pregnant, this one is really standing out.

"She's started requesting that a chair be on hand at all times in case she gets tired of standing. She's also requesting to only fly private so she can have room to sprawl out — and because she doesn't want others around," a source tells In Touch. "She also has designer clothing custom-tailored — even jeans — to fit her pregnant body and make her look her best." NED EHRBAR/METRO

Kim Kardashian. GETTY IMAGES

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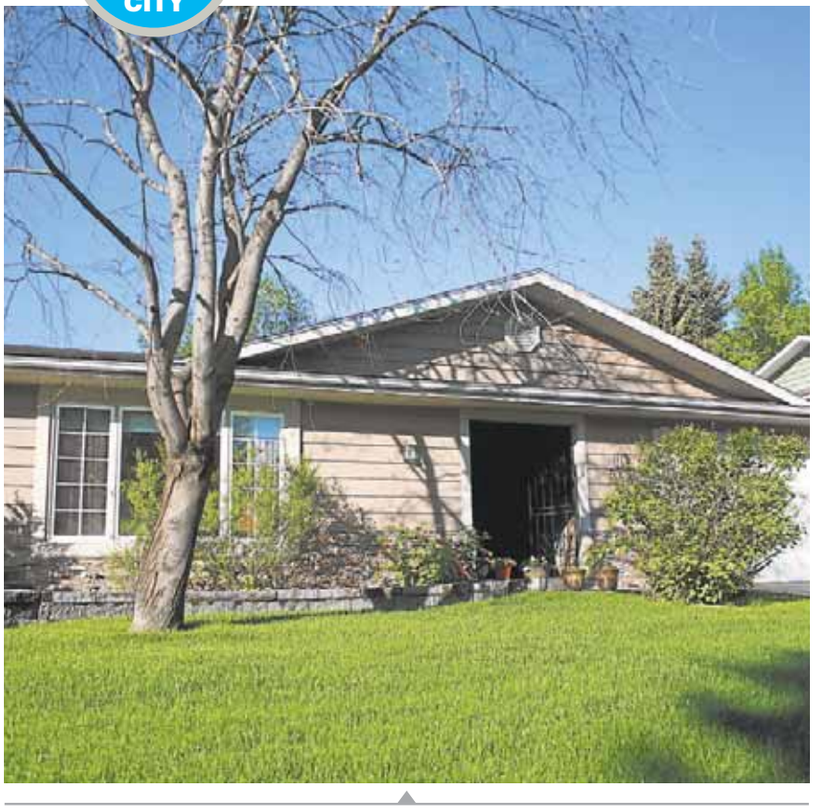
metro HOME
Your essential daily news

39 per cent of Canadian newcomers own property: Study

What they're a$king

OUR CITY

When families outgrow inner-city condos, the next step is to seek a single-family dwelling. Townhomes or bungalows in the suburbs are a popular option. Here's a selection of three-bedroom modern bungalows outside the city core. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO



$889,900

Calgary

You can buy this estate bungalow at 543 Lake Moraine, in one of Calgary's most desirable districts. The home has been updated overall, and includes an open kitchen with quality cabinets, granite countertops, double ovens and a gas stove. The property has a southwest rear exposure along with a mature, park-like yard. The home is just a short walk away from the lake, an arena, schools, and the Lake Bonavista Mall. Listing agent is Jim S. Ashe, an associate with Re/Max First brokerage, 403-278-2900.

$1,090,000

Halifax

This rancher-style home is on a waterfront lot at 80 Joan Elizabeth Way at Sandy Point Estates. This custom-built home boasts plenty of natural light and high-end features, plus an open-concept layout, highlighted by exotic hardwood and slate tile throughout. There's a cherrywood kitchen with granite counters and built-in appliances. The great room has an airtight, wood-burning fireplace and great views of the water. The master bedroom has a five-piece marble ensuite. Listing agent is Thomas Bagogloo with Re/Max Nova, 902-830-9006.

$564,900

Winnipeg

This 1,670 sq. ft. home at 8 Fieldberry Way shows what you can get in the upscale neighbourhood of East St. Paul. Listing agent Lynne Couture says it's a stunning property, and that it's tough to get into the Prichard Farms area for less than $600,000. The great room features a gas fireplace and panoramic windows, and the eat-in kitchen has wood cabinetry, solid surface countertops and plenty of cooking space. The finished basement has a wet bar and entertainment area. Couture is with Ethos Realty, 204-997-0867.

$1,249,000

Toronto

Here's a special home in the Wentworth community in West Lansing. This double-brick, fully insulated home at 284 Burnett Ave. boasts a double garage, a huge master suite with a renovated bathroom, heated floors and a walk-in closet. The bright, open living areas include a modern kitchen with granite bar and new, stainless-steel appliances. Outside is a fenced-in pool and maintenance-free lawn. The property is close to a public school and the subway. Listing agent is Ora Ross with The Mulholland Ross Team, 416-230-8500.

$399,900

Ottawa

Here's a contemporary, brick-built property at 14 Rayburn St., in the Morgan's Grant community. The home sits on a quiet street, close to all amenities. The main level offers nine-foot ceilings, a large living room and dining room, a spacious kitchen with plenty of counter space, and a good-sized eating area. There's main-floor laundry and a master bedroom with walk-in closet and ensuite. The finished lower level contains a den and rec room. Listing agent is Geoff McGowan with Re/Max Affiliates Brokerage, 613-216-1755.

$705,000

Vancouver

Modern bungalows aren't very common in B.C. Here's a nice one in the Fraser Heights neighbourhood of North Surrey. This rancher-style home at 10586 Glenwood Dr. N. sold at press time for $705,000. Listing agent Michael Quesnel says it's a charming home on a really great street. The house has vaulted ceilings, a three-bedroom, three-bathroom layout, and more than 2,000 sq. ft. on a level lot. Outdoors is a covered living space, fenced-in yard and a garage. Quesnel is with Royal LePage Sussex, West Vancouver, 604-925-2911.

How to nail it with home art

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes

Make every room a gallery with these tips — in no time, you'll be hanging framed works like a pro

Q: I just moved into a condo and want to start hanging photos, art and mirrors on the walls of the bedroom, den and hallway. Are their any guidelines to arranging? I like the collage effect but not sure where to begin. — Carole, Toronto

A: Here are my Top 20 rules for hanging art and mirrors throughout the home:

BEDROOMS

1. The overall size of art over a bed should be 2/3 the width of the headboard.
2. The bottom of the art should be hung 6 inches above a tall headboard and about 10-12 inches above a low headboard.
3. Hang art over the nightstands at a different height to the art hung over the headboard; the bottom of the art should be about 12 inches above the top of the nightstand.
4. Consider a large or tall decorative mirror and also use it as a dressing mirror.
5. Art should follow the shape of the top of your headboard.

Hanging art over a large piece of furniture? Make sure the art is about 2/3 the width of the furniture and the bottom of the art hangs 6-10 inches from the top of the piece. CRATE AND BARREL

HALLWAYS

6. If hanging artwork gallery-style in a hall, the middle of the art should hang 66 inches from the floor.
7. No need to hang a different-sized art so the bottoms all line up evenly; centre each piece 66 inches from the floor.
8. To create a collage, arrange the large/heaviest piece in the middle and the smallest outward.
9. Look at the wall space between two doorways. If it's more vertical, then stack artwork vertically in that space.
10. Hang a large floor mirror opposite a doorway to make the hall appear wider at that point.
11. Track-style lighting (directed at art on side walls of a hall) will draw your eyes to the art and make the hallway look wider.

LIVING ROOM

12. The bottom of artwork or mirrors hung over a fireplace should be 3-6 inches above the top of the mantel.
13. Have little wall space in your floor-to-ceiling condo? Consider using an artist easel to display art in the corners.
14. Artwork over a sofa should fill 2/3 of the sofa's width.
15. Hang personal photos and memorabilia in more private areas, such as bedroom and dens.

DOs AND DON'Ts

16. DO hang artwork low. The lower you hang art, the higher ceilings will appear.
17. DO NOT hang art in relationship to tall ceilings in your home — always hang in relationship the floor.
18. DO add a ceiling spotlight or a picture light to highlight the artwork you want to use as the focal point in a room.
19. DO use mirrors to visually help widen a room or reflect light around the space.
20. DO NOT use more than three finishes of framing for any given area.

Sleek, Asian-inspired metal drawer pulls adorn a master bathroom. SARAH DORIO/BURNHAM DESIGN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Small items, big impact

DECOR

Pulls, handles are like jewelry to accessorize style of a room

It's a small thing, often overlooked amid major items such as furniture and paint colours when you're decorating a room. But don't underestimate the power of household hardware.

These small items — handles, doorknobs, drawer pulls, — are "the jewelry" that can add style and sparkle to any space, says New York-based interior designer Young Huh.

Just as the right necklace can turn a simple dress into a fashion statement, a striking new set of knobs on an old cabinet, or vintage crystal doorknobs can bring a huge dose of style to your home with minimal expense, she says.

One of the most popular styles now is lacquered or aged brass.

"Ten years ago," Huh says, "it was all about nickel: brushed nickel, shiny nickel. Now it's the resurgence of brass."

Designers are using "bold tones, and things that look worn," she says, by installing unlacquered brass that tarnishes over the course of a year, or paying extra for "pre-antiqued" brass that already has a colourful patina.

Interior-design expert Brian Patrick Flynn uses a lot of brass, especially "satin or antique finishes, because they're more sophisticated and less formal than polished, glossy styles."

In addition, "a newer option I'm seeing and totally love is matte black hardware," he says. "This is excellent for modern kitchens or for adding dark contrast to an otherwise light and bright space. The matte finish helps camouflage any scratches or smudges you'd deal with on glossy black pulls and knobs."

Another dramatic favourite of Flynn's: unlacquered iron.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bestway Appliances
209 35th Ave NE
North Calgary

Castle Appliances
18 - 3220 5th Ave NE
North Calgary

Coast Wholesale Appliances
6128 Centre St SE, South Calgary
Bay 10 - 2151 32nd St NE, North Calgary

The Laundry Store
#6, 625 77 Avenue SE
Calgary

Trail Appliances
6880 11th St SE, South Calgary
2745 - 29 St NE, North Calgary
1025-9 Ave SE, Inglewood Calgary

metro SPORTS

Kara Lang, Jim Brennan and Pat Onstad highlight the Canada Soccer Hall of Fame Class of 2015

Halifax's Ellie Black performs her floor routine in Toronto on Wednesday. MARTA IWANEK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada strikes Black gold again

PAN AM 2015

Halifax star takes medal tally to five

It took just five days of competition at the 2015 Pan American Games for Canada to eclipse its gold-medal total from four years ago.

Canadian athletes won eight more gold medals on Wednesday, giving the host nation 33 overall.

Canada won 30 gold medals total over 16 days at the 2011 Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Halifax gymnast Ellie Black and Canada's rowing team contributed multiple gold medals Wednesday, while Calgary shooter Lynda Kiejko won her second gold of the Games.

In swimming, Kierra Smith and Hilary Caldwell led Canada to a pair of one-two finishes as the national swimming team took seven medals.

Smith, from Kelowna, B.C., won gold in the 200-metre women's breaststroke in a Pan Am record time of two minutes 24.38 seconds while Toronto's Martha McCabe finished 0.13 seconds back to take silver.

Caldwell, from White Rock B.C., set a Pan Am record in the 200 backstroke, winning in 2:08.22. Dominique Bouchard of North Bay, Ont., was second in 2:09.74.

Black won gold in the women's balance-beam competition and in the floor exercise, giving her five medals in five events.

Black nailed her balance-beam routine with a score of 15.050 at the highest difficulty level. After her floor exercise routine that got her a score of 14.400, she blew kisses to the Toronto crowd as fans roared and waved Canadian flags.

> **This was more than I expected. This has been incredible.**
> Ellie Black

Earlier in the Games, the 19-year-old won gold in the all-around, bronze in the vault and earned silver in the team event.

"The support here has been amazing," Black said. "I was so proud of our team coming in silver, and individually in my finals I was not expecting half of this. So thank you to everyone."

Canada earned a medal in four of five races, including three gold, on the final day of rowing competition at the Royal Canadian Henley course in St. Catharines, Ont. The men's lightweight coxless fours, the men's eight and the women's quadruple sculls all topped the podium, while Rob Gibson of Kingston, Ont., added a silver in men's single sculls.

The men's eights led from start to finish, finishing three seconds ahead of Argentina with a time of six minutes 7.01 seconds.

The eights crew included all four members of the gold-medal-winning men's coxless four from earlier in the meet.

Kiejko swept the women's pistol events with a win in the women's 25 metres.

The Calgary native beat Sandra Uptagrafft 7-3 in the final round to earn Canada's third shooting gold of the Games.

Kiejko also won gold in the 10-metre air pistol on Sunday.

"I don't think words can actually describe how excited and just ecstatic I am right now," she said. "I was coming into this event with it not being my forte. I have no words. I am over the moon right now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Owning the podium

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Around the Toronto area. In addition to Ellie Black's two gold medals on Wednesday, Canada also topped the podium in women's quad sculls, from top, women's 25-metre pistol, men's lightweight four and men's eights rowing. Canada also added two more gold in the swimming pool in the evening.

Go to **metronews.ca** for more coverage of the Pan Am Games.

COURTESY TEAM CANADA

AARON LYNETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kesler at home in Anaheim

NHL

Centre happy as Ducks offer him six-year, $41m deal

Centre Ryan Kesler got comfortable quickly with the Anaheim Ducks, and the club let him know the feeling is definitely mutual.

The veteran centre agreed to a six-year, $41.25 million US contract extension with the Ducks on Wednesday, cementing a long-term commitment after just one season together.

"I definitely feel a part of the core group now," Kesler said. "They wanted me, and I wanted to stay." Kesler had 20 goals, 27 assists and 75 penalty minutes last year in Anaheim after spending his first nine NHL seasons with the Vancouver Canucks. The hard-nosed U.S. Olympian filled a key role as the Ducks' second-line centre while matching up defensively against many teams' top scorers.

Kesler also had seven goals and six assists in a standout playoff effort as the three-time Pacific Division champion Ducks fell one game short of the Stanley Cup Final, losing to Chicago in the Western Conference finals.

"That dressing room is so close, and we hold ourselves to the highest standard," Kesler said. "That group is not satisfied until we win a Stanley Cup. When we do win that Stanley Cup, I don't think we'll be satisfied then, either.

"We're going to want another one. We were one game away from going to the final, and that experience will help us next year."

Kesler has one year left on his current contract. His new deal has an average annual value of $6.875 million and extends through the 2021-22 season, when he will be 37 years old — not that he's counting.

"This isn't my last contract," Kesler said. "I want another one after this. Right now."

The deal still provides extraordinary long-term security for a player in his 30s, but the Ducks are banking on Kesler being a key part of their near future as they attempt to breach the final barriers to the franchise's second championship. Anaheim was on the brink last season, but lost the last two games of the conference finals to the eventual champion Blackhawks. "We needed a killer instinct in Game 6," Kesler said of the Ducks' first potential elimination game, a blowout loss in Chicago. "We didn't have it. There are two ways we can go about it: We can sulk about it, or we can learn from it. ... That's not going to happen again."

Kesler is eager to resume his connection with Kevin Bieksa, his former roommate and the longtime Canucks defenceman acquired by the Ducks last month.

Bieksa is the biggest off-season addition to the Ducks, who shuffled their lineup significantly despite their success. Anaheim also acquired forwards Carl Hagelin, Shawn Horcoff and Chris Stewart, while defenceman Francois Beauchemin and forwards Matt Beleskey, Emerson Etem and Kyle Palmieri all departed.

Kesler's long-term deal secures a key component of the Ducks' future, but general manager Bob Murray has more work to do with the Ducks' restricted free agents.

Restricted free agent forward Jakob Silfverberg, Kesler's once-and-future linemate, is negotiating a long-term contract. Goalie Frederik Andersen, centre Rickard Rakell and defencemen Hampus Lindholm, Sami Vatanen and Simon Despres all could be restricted free agents next summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **I definitely feel a part of the core group now.**
> Ryan Kesler

DONE DEALS

Schultz staying on Oilers
Justin Schultz and the Edmonton Oilers have settled on a $3.9 million US, one-year contract. Restricted free agent Schultz earned his second straight one-year deal.

The 25-year-old has been considered a big piece of the Oilers' future, and the pressure remains for him to grow into a top-four mainstay. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dallas snaps up Oduya
Johnny Oduya watch is over. The veteran defenceman has signed a $7.5-million US, two-year contract with the Dallas Stars.

The two-time Stanley Cup-winner with the Chicago Blackhawks was considered among the best free agents available.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rangers re-sign McIlrath
The New York Rangers have re-signed restricted free agent defenceman Dylan McIlrath.

McIlrath had six goals and 11 assists in 73 games with the Hartford Wolf Pack (AHL) last season.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anaheim Ducks' centre Ryan Kesler scored 20 goals last season and was rewarded with a new deal JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

TOUR DE FRANCE

Leader Froome calls for testing

Tour de France leader Chris Froome understands those who harbour doubts about his dominant performances in a sport long marred by doping. Maybe, he says, it's time to bring in an independent specialist to test his body and help prove that he's riding clean.

The 30-year-old Briton cruised through a second day in the Pyrenees mountains on Wednesday, finishing more than five minutes behind Stage 11 winner Rafal Majka of Poland but keeping his main rivals in check.

The bumpy, gruelling ride under a hot sun came a day after Froome blew away the pack, prompting new suspicions about doping. Ironically, it came as Lance Armstrong — who was stripped of seven consecutive Tour titles — was to return to French roads nearby, even though he's persona non grata at the Tour de France.

Armstrong was to take part in charity rides Thursday and Friday. Froome brushed off Armstrong's visit as a "non-event", noting that "he's not on the start line with us."

However, Armstrong's presence is a reminder that any Tour leader can expect to come under at least some suspicion. To deal with that, Froome is willing to take testing even further. "I'm open-minded to potentially doing some physiological testing at some point after the Tour, or at whatever point suits," the Briton said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

League salaries are bigger than ever

To understand how the business model of NBA salaries is unlike ever before, consider the cases of Reggie Jackson, Khris Middleton and DeMarre Carroll.

They're not All-Stars. They're not exactly household names, either.

Nonetheless, the trio got a combined $210 million in deals this summer: Jackson got $80 million over five years from the Detroit Pistons, Middleton a five-year, $70 million deal to stay with the Milwaukee Bucks, and Carroll a four-year contract worth nearly $60 million to join the Toronto Raptors.

Only a couple years ago, such deals would have been considered baffling. These days, they seem quite fair. "The numbers you hear out there, they seem crazy to think about," Miami Heat centre Hassan Whiteside said.

$80m

That's the deal Reggie Jackson signed recently for Detroit. Bear in mind that Jackson is not a true NBA star.

It's hard to fathom that a league that dealt with serious labour strife four years ago and might be looking at another work stoppage in a couple years is about to become flush with so much cash. "We're continuing to study how our system is absorbing the money," said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER IN BRIEF

Cuba tops Guatemala to set up match with U.S.
Maikel Reyes scored on a header in the 73rd minute to lift Cuba to a 1-0 win over Guatemala on Wednesday night in the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Cuba (1-2-0) advanced to the quarter-finals, where it will play the United States on Saturday in Baltimore, Maryland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dos Santos joins Galaxy
Giovani dos Santos is the next star in the LA Galaxy.

The defending MLS Cup champions signed the versatile Mexican scorer Wednesday, bolstering their already powerful lineup with another international talent.

The 26-year-old dos Santos spent the last two seasons with Spain's Villareal, scoring 12 goals in 58 La Liga appearances. He has played professionally in Europe since his childhood, but dos Santos also has played for Mexico in two World Cups during eight years with El Tri.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Van Gaal done with Valdes
Victor Valdes' stint at Manchester United is going to be brief.

United manager Louis van Gaal said Wednesday the club intend to sell Valdes after the former Barcelona and Spain goalkeeper failed to follow the club's philosophy. Valdes was noticeably absent from United's roster for its pre-season tour of the United States that opens on Friday night against Mexico's Club America in Seattle.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRITISH OPEN

Watson's swan song to be competitive one

Tom Watson is filled with all sorts of conflicting emotions.

He's melancholy that such a big part of his life is winding down, yet there's an immense sense of pride in what he's accomplished.

He's realistic that it's the right time to step away, but he can still flash that ol' competitive streak when anyone suggests this is nothing more than a nostalgic farewell at the home of golf.

"This is not a ceremony at all," Watson said Wednesday, his eyes steely and firm. "I'm trying to compete against these players out here." Some of them, such as Jordan Spieth, are young enough to be his grandchildren.

Which is why, in all likelihood, the 65-year-old Watson will be playing the British Open for the final time, a five-time champion making one last crossing of the Swilcan Bridge.

"There are some tools missing now, especially distance," he moaned. "I need everything to compete against these kids," pausing for emphasis. "Everything."

Watson could earn the right to play another five years if he finishes in the top 10 this week, an exception that was hastily added to the Open's 60-year-old age limit after he nearly became golf's oldest major champion at Turnberry in 2009. Watson went to the 72nd hole with a one-stroke lead, only to make bogey and lose to Stewart Cink in a playoff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys wide receiver Dez Bryant reeled in a league-best 16 receiving touchdowns in 2014. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Bryant hauls in $70M deal

NFL

All-Pro receiver and Cowboys end standoff with 5-year pact

Dez Bryant and the Dallas Cowboys have the long-term contract both sides said they wanted during a long stalemate that came right up against the deadline to get a deal done.

The All-Pro receiver signed the five-year, $70-million deal Wednesday, less than an hour before he would have run out of time to play under anything other than a one-year agreement in 2015.

A person close to the negotiations provided contract terms to The Associated Press because they weren't announced. The deal, which includes $45 million in guaranteed money, is similar to one that Denver receiver Demaryius Thomas got at about the same time as Bryant.

The 26-year-old Bryant, who led the NFL in receiving touchdowns with 16 last season, had threatened to skip training camp and regular-season games without a contract to replace the $12.8-million offer for one year he had under the franchise tag.

56

Bryant has more catches (381), yards (5,424) and touchdowns (56) through five years than any receiver in Cowboys franchise history — a list that includes Hall of Famers Michael Irvin and Bob Hayes.

Once the sides got close enough, Bryant rode to the team's Valley Ranch headquarters. He was pictured there signing the contract with his son in his arms.

"I smiled the whole way over here. I couldn't even say nothing but just smile and laugh, because I couldn't believe it," Bryant said in a story on the team's website. "All I could just think about is that it's a dream — a dream come true. I think the only thing that's missing is a Super Bowl."

Now the Cowboys can focus on defending their NFC East title and trying to make a deeper playoff run after one that ended on Bryant's much-debated catch that wasn't in a divisional-round loss to Green Bay.

The deal also ended the contract-related drama that filled the off-season for the Cowboys. First, they decided not to match Philadelphia's offer on running back DeMarco Murray in free agency, and let the NFL rushing leader go to one of their division rivals. Then the focus turned to Bryant, who has the most receiving touchdowns in the league since 2010, when Dallas drafted him late in the first round after his stock fell over concerns about off-the-field issues.

"As well as we know him, you see the kind of commitment that we've made here," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "That says everything about what we feel about him on and off the field. He's made tremendous strides since he came out of college, relative to his complete maturation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

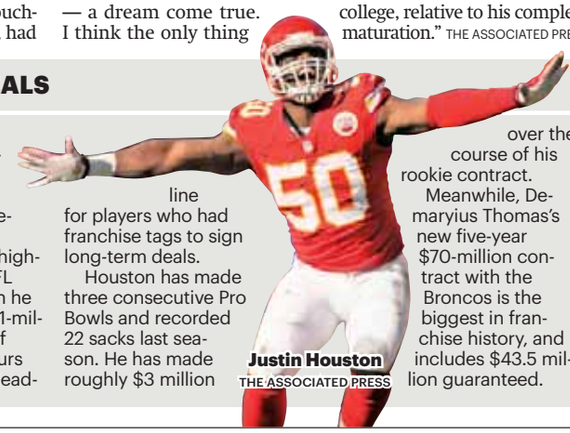
DEADLINE DEALS

The Kansas City Chiefs ended up with a big bargain the last time they signed Justin Houston. This time, it's the star linebacker who's cashing in.

Houston became the highest-paid linebacker in NFL history Wednesday when he agreed to a six-year, $101-million contract, over half of which is guaranteed, hours before the Wednesday deadline for players who had franchise tags to sign long-term deals.

Houston has made three consecutive Pro Bowls and recorded 22 sacks last season. He has made roughly $3 million over the course of his rookie contract.

Meanwhile, Demaryius Thomas's new five-year $70-million contract with the Broncos is the biggest in franchise history, and includes $43.5 million guaranteed.



Justin Houston THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Riders' Chamblin defiant amid criticism

The Saskatchewan Roughriders are the CFL's lone winless team but head coach Corey Chamblin has a message for the club's rabid fans: Relax.

"The only thing that's been truly lost in this season is the ability right now to go 16-2 for the regular season," Chamblin told reporters earlier this week. "We haven't lost the Grey Cup, we haven't lost first place, we haven't lost home-field advantage, we haven't lost anything so no matter how you paint the picture at some point I knew we'd lose at least three games during the damn season."

> **They (upset fans) can come and stand here and boo me every day. At the end of the day I get a paycheque and I am doing my job.**
> Roughriders head coach Corey Chamblin

Chamblin guided the Riders to a Grey Cup title in 2013, but Saskatchewan is 0-3 heading into a rematch at home against the B.C. Lions (1-1), who rallied for a 35-32 win last weekend in Vancouver.

In fact, the Riders have held fourth-quarter leads in all three of their losses, prompting some Saskatchewan fans to ask for Chamblin's head.

"There's two podiums waiting at the end of the year — a championship podium or a cross," Chamblin said. "I'm prepared for either one of them.

"At the end of the day, I'll still work and I'll still be a great coach whether it's here in Saskatchewan this year or somewhere else the next couple of years. So to be honest, I don't give a damn about that."

Optimism was high in Regina this year with Darian Durant returning from an elbow injury. But the veteran quarterback suffered a season-ending Achilles injury in the season opener. And although veteran Kevin Glenn has been solid as Durant's replacement it hasn't translated into wins. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Head coach Corey Chamblin and the Roughriders are 0-3 heading into their matchup with the Lions on Friday. BRENT JUST/GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Barbecue Chicken Sandwiches with Cider Coleslaw

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Great lunch item that's easy to prepare. You can always grill boneless chicken breasts if you don't have leftovers.
Serves 6.

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 cup barbecue sauce, heated
- 4 cups diced cooked chicken, leftover or rotisserie
- 1/3 cup diced green onions
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley
- 3 cups packaged coleslaw mixture
- 1/4 cup light mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 6 hamburger buns, toasted
- 6 pieces romaine lettuce
- 6 slices tomato

Directions
1. Combine hot BBQ sauce, chicken, green onions and cilantro in a bowl.

2. Separately, combine coleslaw, mayonnaise and vinegar in a bowl.

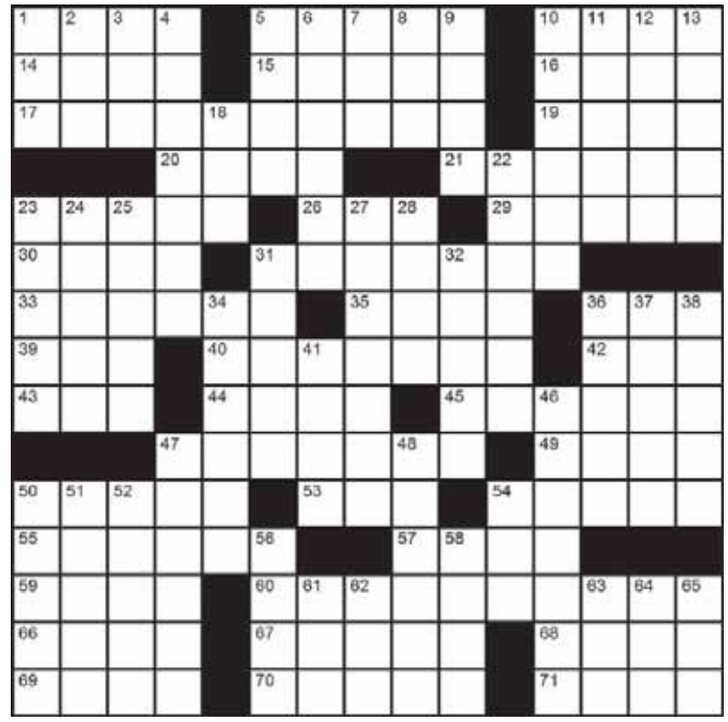
3. Place lettuce and tomato on bottom of buns. Divide chicken mixture over top and then coleslaw.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 301
- Protein 32.5 g
- Carbohydrates 47 g
- Fat 4.1 g
- Saturated fat 0.3 g
- Cholesterol 44 mg
- Sodium 698 mg
- Fibre 7 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. _ Gold (Canadian brand of pretzels since 1917)
5. Singer known for her numbered albums
10. Outfit
14. Cream-filled cookie
15. Red carpet cars
16. Away from the wind, at sea
17. Party mix pieces: 2 wds.
19. Lemon's friend
20. Slacken
21. Cream-filled pastry
23. Sculptor of ancient Athens known for the Discus Thrower
26. Bar drink
29. Party givers
30. Hairdo
31. "Hurdy Gurdy Man" singer
33. Hearty laugh
35. Shades
36. Morn's follower
39. Gwen's "Rich Girl" collaborator
40. Rebels/rule breakers
42. Former bird of New Zealand
43. 'Ballad' suffix
44. Thaw
45. The _: Canadian punk band known for "New York City"
47. Type of grill
49. Burden
50. Bustling
53. The Guess _
54. Literary genre
55. Billy's beard?
57. Canadian comedian Caroline
59. Long-range weapon, commonly
60. Canadian invented kitchen gadget to zest oranges, grate garlic, etc.
66. Bug type
67. Rarified fluid in the veins of ancient Greek gods
68. Prime Minister William _ Mackenzie King (b.1874 - d.1950)
69. Fork-tailed sea bird
70. "You _" by Alanis Morissette
71. Archery bow trees

DOWN
1. Steal
2. Parry Sound, Ontario-born hockey legend Bobby
3. Grazing grassland
4. Fall asleep: 2 wds.
5. Shakespeare's _ Well That Ends Well
6. Money, informally
7. Flightless flapper
8. Batch
9. Latin 'being'
10. Gas quantity
11. Old Jennifer Garner series
12. Send payment
13. Labatt products
18. Canadian singer/songwriter Mr. Tyson
22. Ballerina's gliding step
23. The Cremation of Sam _ (Yukon-set poem by Robert Service)
24. James Taylor hit: "_ Got a Friend"
25. More abundant
27. Disconnect the trailer from the car
28. Grimace
31. Dork
32. Rigoletto opera composer
34. Like, as a work of art
36. _ acid
37. Concentrate
38. Cup, in a Montreal restaurant
41. Imperfection
46. Respectably/virtuously
47. Bret "The _" Hart, Canadian wrestling legend
48. Shriek!-inducing film genre
50. Don't look _ _ horse in the mouth
51. Architectural base
52. Southern Alberta town
54. Sprightliness
56. Early filmdom's Mr. Jannings
58. Highway honker
61. Frozen stuff
62. Pussycat Dolls hit: "Don't _"
63. Pirate's positive
64. This moment
65. Nav. rank

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Forget about the past, it is over and done with. Only the future counts and today's new moon means the future starts for you right here and right now.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You need to come out of your shell and remind the world that you exist. Don't limit yourself to the tried and tested: the more you experiment the more likely it is you will find what you are looking for – and others will value your worth.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The new moon indicates that if someone makes you an offer of a financial nature it is most likely on the level and should be seriously considered.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Others may doubt that you are on the right track but with the new moon on your side you will win them over before the end of the day. This is your time of year.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Do what makes you happy rather than what makes friends and family happy. If you don't feel like socializing or travelling or communicating over the next 24 hours, then don't.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Do you change with the times or do you expect the times to change for you? The latter isn't going to happen, of course, so forget it and get to work on a project that will dovetail nicely with the new world you find yourself in.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today's new moon will give you the courage to stand up and take charge. What happens over the next 24 hours could change the working course of your life dramatically.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't worry about minor matters today because it is the big picture you should be looking at now. Take an overview of what is happening, both in your personal affairs and in the world at large. What you see will surely delight you.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Focus on what is truly important today: your long-term financial security. What you begin over the next 24 hours will pay big dividends in the not-too-distant future.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will have to work hard to overcome some sort of challenge today. But anyone who thinks they are tough enough to take you on and win will soon be nursing their wounds!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You must be pragmatic and deal with each situation as it arises and on its own terms. There is no point complaining about those who are dragging their feet or doing things the wrong way.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Amazing things will happen for no apparent reason over the next 24 hours. The new moon is well and truly on your side. Creatively and romantically you can do no wrong.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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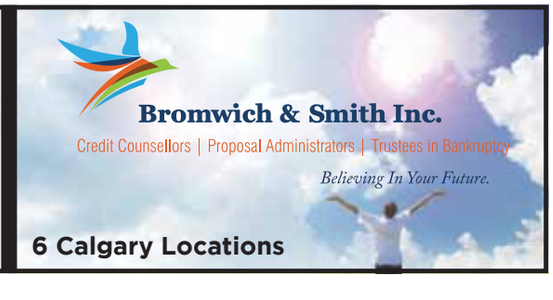
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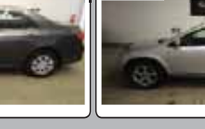

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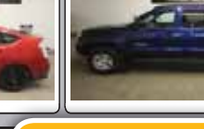

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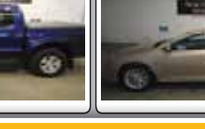

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